Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 73 | FRIDAY APRIL 12, 2013 | www.saipantribune.com | 75¢

Head Start, child care program to join ARC Walkathon. PAGE 7

COTA gets public land for admin, maintenance offices. PAGE 14

Military plans for NMI prompt worries

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugeniio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» CNMI weighs population safety with military economy, national security

» Last scoping meeting tonight at Carolinian Utt

Visiting Federal Aviation Administration officials and members of the CNMI Legislature raised concerns yesterday about the impact on the population's safety and airports, among other things, of the U.S. Department of Defense's proposal to develop live-fire training on Tinian and Pagan, as well as the use of Saipan or Tinian as an alternate airfield in the event that access to Guam's Andersen Air Force Base is limited or denied.

Currently, there is no live-fire training area in the CNMI except on Farallon de Mendinilla.

The U.S. military plans to establish a series of live-fire and maneuver ranges

See MILITARY on Page 4

Federal Aviation Administration's Honolulu Airports District Office manager Ron Simpson, second from right, and FAA Guam air traffic manager Tim Cornelison, center, along with FAA Honolulu's Robert Hong, wrap up their presentation for members of the CNMI House of Representatives and Senate on Capital Hill yesterday, on their observations and concerns about the impacts on CNMI airports and airspace of the U.S. military's proposed training activities on the islands. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

MORE INSIDE

➤ GTC's San Nicolas is PSS 2013 Librarian of the Year. PAGE 2

➤ Hospital seeks $9.9M payment for uncompensated care. PAGE 3

➤ Musician Johnson found guilty of sex abuse. PAGE 7

Guam heightens alert level

HAGATNA, Guam (AFP)—Guam has raised its official threat level and on Thursday tested its emergency alert system after warnings from North Korea identifying the island as a potential missile target.

With a North Korean missile test expected at any time, authorities said the U.S. territory in the western Pacific was on yellow alert, the middle phase of a three-step "traffic light" system comprising green, yellow, and red levels.

"This means we should continue with our daily lives while preparing ourselves for any potential of an emergency," the government said in a statement, describing the risk to the island as "medium."

"It also means the government pulls its resources together through the emergency operations centre to ensure we are prepared to respond to emergencies."

■■■

RELATED NEWS

➤ No panic in NKorea despite talk of missile test. PAGE 21

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—A North Korean agency that deals with relations with South Korea claims Pyongyang has "powerful

See GUAM on Page 4

Customs K9 being revived

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 10 months since becoming inactive, the CNMI Division of Customs Services' K9 Unit is now being revived with the hiring of four handlers of drug-detector and bomb-detector dogs. The dog handlers will start their 10-week certification training next week.

Since June 2012, Customs has had no certified dog handlers due to a host of reasons, including lack

See CUSTOMS on Page 4

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397
235-2440
FAX: 235-3740
EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Are you worried about North Korea's threats to attack Guam?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

NATION

Thousands of immigrants and activists rally for immigration reform.

➤ PAGE XX

SCIENCE & TECH

Bitcoins are moving from the Internet world to the cusp of mainstream use.

➤ PAGE 23

LIFE & STYLE

Model Natalia Vodianova is honored at the annual DVF Awards.

➤ PAGE 25

Local

GTC's San Nicolas is PSS 2013 Librarian of the Year

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A longtime employee of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Maria Corazon San Nicolas, has been named the 2013 Public School System Librarian of the Year.

San Nicolas, who has been GTC's librarian for five years now, was honored yesterday by the State Board of Education during proclamation rites endorsing April as PSS Library Month.

San Nicolas is a mother of one and wife to fellow educator, Joseph Vincent San Nicolas of Chacha Oceanview Junior High School. This is the second time the hardworking employee was recognized for her dedication after being hailed the system's 2010 Support Staff of the Year.

San Nicolas shared her latest achievement with her students and fellow librarians whom she credits for performing beyond expectations.

» Board of Education proclaims April PSS Library Month

At GTC, San Nicolas is not only responsible for ensuring that students have access to the library and know how to choose books appropriate to their reading level. She is also GTC's representative for the Librarian's Learning Community and a member of the school's Response to Intervention Team. She also teaches reading mastery to help students with their fluency.

According to San Nicolas, GTC has 11,000 to 12,000 library materials for its students. She lauded the effort of her principal, Charlotte Camacho, to ensure that $20,000 is earmarked each year for new books and learning materials.

Camacho said that yesterday's award was unexpected and they are absolutely elated with the honor.

"She is well-deserved for the honor as she goes beyond what is expected of her. Like our school counselor, we're very proud of having such dedicated, outstanding staff who are all working as a team to ensure we work toward increasing student learning," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

GTC's Amparo Q. Camacho was also recently adjudged as the overall PSS Counselor of the Year.

GTC is home to 213 students and 19 personnel this school year.

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero signed yesterday the proclamation for PSS Library Month, emphasizing the vital role of school and community librarians.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Public School System's Librarian of the Year for 2013 Maria Corazon San Nicolas, left, poses with her principal Charlotte Camacho after the awarding rites yesterday at the Board of Education conference room.

King gets two Guam lawyers as co-counsel for Crisostomo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho approved yesterday court-appointed counsel Janet H. King's request to appoint two Guam lawyers as her co-counsel for habitual offender Joseph Acosta Crisostomo in the case of slain bartender Emerita Romero.

Camacho appointed lawyers Jeffrey A. Moots and F. Randall Cunliffe as King's co-counsel.

By granting this request, Camacho said that King will be able to consult with experienced and knowledgeable co-counsel and remove any allegations of ineffective assistance of counsel.

The co-counsel will be able to provide the necessary legal expertise and attend hearings with King, he added.

"It is not the intention of this court to 'stack the deck' and have three defense counsels paired against one lone prosecutor," Camacho said. "Granting Ms. King's motion for a co-counsel will remove the issue of ineffective assistance of counsel in appeal, if the issues were to be appealed."

King asked the court to appoint Moots and Cunliffe as her co-counsel, admitting that she lacks experience in trying criminal cases.

Moots and Cunliffe, who both reside in Guam and are active members of the CNMI Bar, have agreed to assist King.

Moots used to serve as chief prosecutor for the CNMI Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division. He also previously worked as an assistant public defender in the CNMI.

Cunliffe has tried several felony criminal cases, including homicides, in the CNMI, Guam, and Palau.

King said her lack of trial experience combined with her lack of experience in specific technical areas of possible evidence may result in her providing ineffective representation to Crisostomo.

Court staff contacted nearly all private attorneys and some government attorneys residing in the CNMI and licensed to practice before the CNMI courts but all were unable to represent Crisostomo for various reasons.

The court-appointment roster was exhausted all except King. Last March 12, King was appointed as counsel for Crisostomo.

Camacho said that based on the evidence presented at the preliminary hearing, this case may involve DNA, fingerprints, and other expert analysis, and testimony from a medical examiner.

"Ms. King does not have any experience dealing with evidence in these areas," Camacho said.

Camacho said that King can oversee the case locally and get assistance from co-counsel as needed.

Camacho said the maximum total allowable fees and costs for the appointment is $4,000.

The Office of the Attorney General charged the 39-year-old Crisostomo with first-degree murder, kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, robbery, theft, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Romero reportedly rode in a car she mistook for a taxicab near her house in Garapan on Feb. 5, 2012. Two days later, FBI agents found her body at the abandoned La Fiesta Mall in As Matuis.

Simply Irresistible – the Samsung Galaxy S III Mini
Samsung
GALAXY S III Mini
• 2G/3G - Quad Band
• 4-inch Super AMOLED Capacitive Touch Screen
• Android OS, v4.1 (Jelly Bean)
• 5 MP Camera
• MP3/MP4 Player
• Wi-Fi – Bluetooth
• Micro SD
$149*
Clear Unlimited Minutes
• Unlimited SMS
• Max Data Plan
$79.45
$229**
Clear 1000 Minutes
• Unlimited SMS
• Nights & Weekends
• Max Data Plan
$49.45
Join Today
NTT docomo
DOCOMO PACIFIC
The Choice is Clear
483-CARE • Middle Road
www.docomopacific.com
*Unlimited minute Clear Plan, Unlimited SMS, and MAX Data Plan or higher. Phone must be activated on a 24-month agreement. **1000 minute Clear Plan, Nights & Weekends, Unlimited SMS and MAX Data Plan or higher. Phone must be activated on a 24-month agreement. Offer Valid from April 1 – April 30, 2013 or while supplies last some conditions apply.

Hospital seeks reimbursement for $9.9M uncompensated care

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta wants the local government to reimburse the corporation some $9.9 million to cover for the hospital's several years of "uncompensated care."

Included in this amount are unfunded medical services rendered by the corporation such as medical assistance for prison inmates, the program for indigent petients, and for treating the Medicaid population.

"It is important to note that in fiscal years after the inception of the [corporation], the deductions/allowances/uncompensated care from treating the Medicaid population, the prison population, and the indigents were never reimbursed to CHCC. Nevertheless, services were never disrupted to these population groups," Babauta told Gov. Eloy S. Inos in a letter dated April 1, 2013.

For one overstaying Chinese patient, 49-year-old Jing ZhiQuiang, Babauta disclosed that the expenses incurred for his treatment amounted to approximately $600,000 annually since 2010.

The corporation is seeking reimbursement from the Chinese government for all expenses incurred by the patient and Babauta promised to remit the money to the CNMI government once the corporation gets paid.

For fiscal year 2014, the corporation projects to collect $34.3 million in patient revenues. However, Babauta said this projection may be affected by $9.938 million in unmatched Medicaid funding, unpaid services provided to other agencies, and uncompensated care for the indigent population.

Babauta also wants the government to settle with its vendor some $300,000 for equipment purchased for the new dialysis unit. These new purchases ensure continued compliance with the Conditions of Participation of the Medicare and Medicaid programs but this unsettled liability strains the corporation's operational funding, he said.

It is for this reason, Babauta said, that the corporation is requesting a legislative appropriation of $10.2 million for fiscal year 2014.

Based on the corporation's budget narrative for fiscal year 2014, the agency needs $35.9 million to cover its personnel and operational costs in the next 12 months. Of this amount, $10.2 million is being sought from the local government, while the rest will be covered by the hospital's revenue and collections.

Based on corporation projections, net patient revenues in fiscal year 2014 is expected to reach $34.6 million, the bulk of which will come from Medicare reimbursements projected at $11 million and for Medicaid reimbursement at $18 million. Revenue from private insurances is projected at $3.6 million; $300,000 from the collection agency; $1.4 million from self-pay; and $240,000 for services to other agencies.

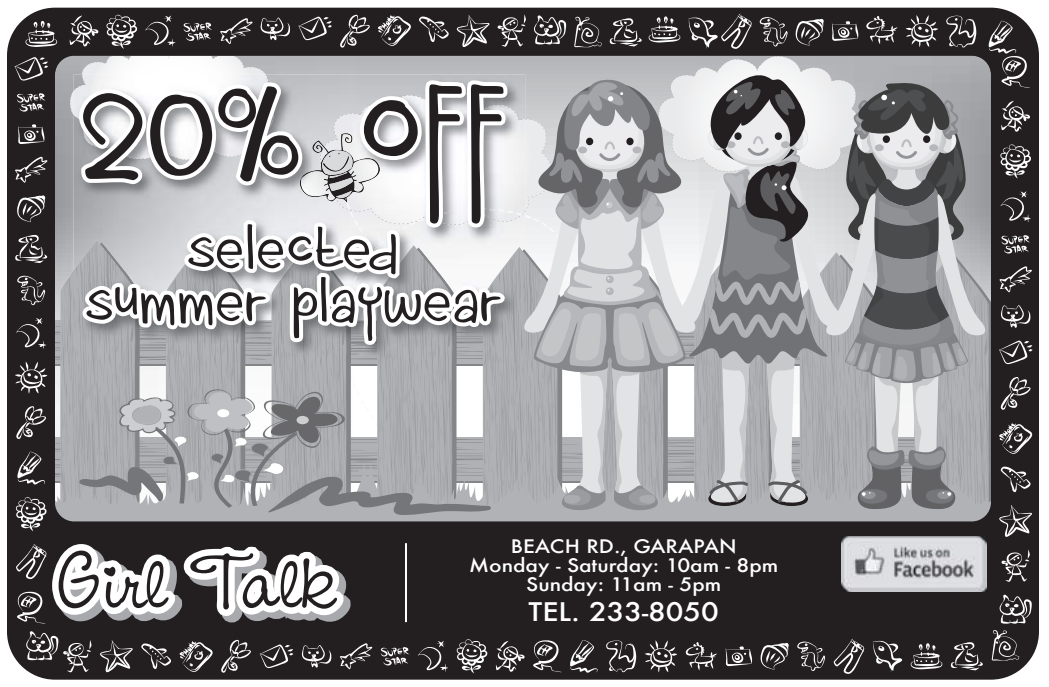
Minus the uncompensated care of $9.938 million, the projected patient revenue for next fiscal year will be at $24.6 million.

496 FTEs, $900K for professional fees

The corporation intends to have 496 FTEs (full time employees) next fiscal year, at a proposed cost of $22.5 million. These FTEs are composed of five personnel for the CEO's Office; 405 staff at the Commonwealth Health Center; 32 personnel for the Tinian clinic; 42 staff for the Rota clinic; and 12 personnel for the Public Health Division.

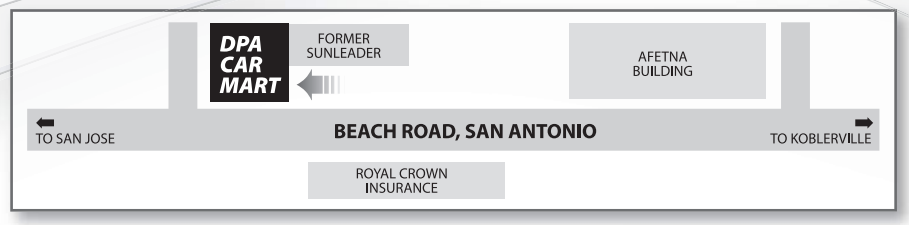
For operations, $13.4 million will be set aside for, among others, utility cost of $4.8 million; general supplies, $3 million; and medical pharmaceutical supplies, $2.1 million.

The corporation is also earmarking $939,126 for professional services and $505,732 for repairs and maintenance as well as for cleaning services ($562,732).



NEED EXTRA CASH?
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? COME ON BY TO
DPA CAR MART IN SAN ANTONIO
We are buying 1997 & Up USED CARS! Sedans, Pick-up trucks and SUV's!
TRANSACTION WILL ONLY TAKE ABOUT 30 MINUTES OR LESS!

The Most affordable and best prices ever!
Business Hours: 9:00AM – 5:00PM (Monday – Saturday)
Located in San Antonio, formerly Sun Leader Super Market, across from Royal Crown Insurance.



PSS to assist NMC in developing its closure plan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, disclosed yesterday that the Public School System will assist the Northern Marianas College in completing the institution's closure plan, which is due for submission to the accreditation commission in October this year.

Sablan appointed Jackie Quitugua, associate commissioner for instruction and curriculum, as PSS' representative on the team that is developing the closure plan report.

Quitugua's appointment follows the visit on Monday by NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., to the commissioner's office. The two officials had a lengthy discussion on some issues, including the college's accreditation status.

Sablan disclosed that PSS made it clear that the system is ready to help NMC ensure that the college will reaffirm its accreditation.

NMC is currently addressing a severe show-cause status imposed by the Western Association of School and Colleges. The college is being required to submit a show-cause report and a closure plan that will be used in the event the institution loses its accreditation.

When NMC was first cited with a show-cause status in 2008, the college developed procedures for closure and inked an agreement with the Guam Community College for a teach-out of its courses and programs.

Based on the same 2008 report, all physical copies of student files such as academic records, financial aid records, administrative and business office records will be prepared for archiving at GCC. These records shall be stored in compliance with record retention requirements.

Those records not designated for archiving will be shredded, recycled, or disposed of in compliance with the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other regulatory requirements.

The content of NMC's new show-cause report and the closure plan is expected to be made public by the commission after its assembly in January 2014.

Guam tourism prepares for increase of Chinese visitors

TUMON, Guam—Arrivals from China to Guam rose from 7,068 to 8,939—a significant increase of 26.5 percent compared to 2011. To prepare for this growing tourist segment, the Guam Visitors Bureau is hosting a China Outbound Travel Market Symposium on May 22, supported by the Pacific Asia Travel Association.

In 2012, Chinese outbound departures achieved 83.18 million in total, representing a year-on-year growth of 18.41 percent. The number of outbound departures is expected to keep increasing at an average growth rate of over 10 percent in next 10 years. By 2015, about 100,000 million outbound departures is forecasted, according to Shao QiWei, chairman of the China National Tourism Association.

While China arrival numbers are expected to continue to rise, a visa waiver for China would increase visitor arrivals dramatically. This is important because Chinese outbound travelers, who have high incomes and are well educated, have steadily increased over the past several years, and Guam's economy can benefit by obtaining market share from this lucrative target segment.

"There is extensive work being done in Guam and Washington, D.C. to facilitate a visa waiver for China," said GVB general manager Karl A. Pangelinan. "Based on information Gov. Calvo brought back from meetings on his recent trip to the nation's capitol, we expect a decision to be made later this year."

GVB hosted the first symposium in October 2010, which focused on understanding the profile of Chinese outbound travelers and how to generate relationships with Chinese agencies to build Guam's awareness in China. This year, the symposium is scheduled for May 22, 2013, and will be a full-day event focused on how to maximize opportunities in welcoming increasing numbers of Chinese visitors by meeting their travel wants and needs.

Further details on the event venue and the program will be announced shortly. ***(visitguam.org/eturbonews)***

MHS Class of '73 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of '73 Alumni Association is inviting all classmates to a membership meeting on Saturday, April 13, 2013, at 6:30pm at the residence of Antonio and Amma Cabrera in Koblerville at the crossroad of Koblerville Rd. and Essok Avenue.

On the agenda is the upcoming 40th year of 1973 classmates' reunion in June and election of officers.

For more information, call George Sablan, 483-4530; Lou Kisa, 285-9677; Amma Cabrera, 288-6362; Joe Salas, 483-5537; Frank Tomokane, 989-8748; Dave Palacios, 483-9608; or Ray Aldan, 288-8888. ***(PR)***

MILITARY

From Page 1

and training areas on Tinian and Pagan, to address insufficient training facilities in the Western Pacific, particularly in the CNMI.

Lawmakers, including House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), said they recognize the need to support the U.S. military for national security reasons but they also have to consider whether what the military plans to build and do on the islands will be safe for residents and tourists, especially the impacts of live-fire training.

FAA Honolulu Airports District Office manager Ron Simpson and FAA Guam air traffic manager Tim Cornelison, for their part, shared their observations and concerns about the impacts of military activities on CNMI airports and restricted airspace.

Simpson, during a meeting with Senate and House members on Capital Hill, said that residents need to be aware that the military's proposal "will bring substantial increase in activity" in airports.

He said FAA wants to ensure that military landings and the use of CNMI airports "should never at any time impact or interrupt or disrupt" commercial airlines' services and schedules.

Some other specific concerns include the transport and storage of live ordnance at CNMI airports.

Simpson said FAA has been working with the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the military to establish standard operating procedures wherein the military has to formally request CPA for permission to come in and conduct training. Because each training requires different missions, goals, equipment, and different number of personnel, the request should be for every training that will be conducted.

Lawmakers took turns raising concerns and posing questions to FAA officials who, in turn, suggested that they also raise these concerns and ask the "hard questions" to the U.S. military.

April 29, 2013, is the deadline for submitting comments to the U.S. Navy's "Notice of Intent to Prepare the CNMI Joint Military Training Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement."

More information is available at www.cnmijointmilitarytrainingeis.com.

Tonight will also be the last of three public scoping meetings. It will be held at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan from 5pm to 8pm.

Scoping meetings were held at Dandan Elementary School on Wednesday night attended by some lawmakers and residents, as well as at the Tinian Gym last night.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, one of those in attendance at last night's scoping meeting, said a "compromise" can be reached to balance the concerns of residents with that of the military's proposals.

"Safety is our primary concern," Cruz said, adding that they also would like to ensure that tourism and access to historical sites on Tinian will not be impacted.

As of yesterday, the CNMI government has yet to come up with a unified position on Defense's proposed plans for Tinian and Pagan.

"This is still under advisement. The administration would like to ensure that the feedback from stakeholders and the general community are taken into consideration as well. …The administration intends to work with the elected leadership to present a unified position on DoD's Notice of Intent regarding joint military training EIS/OES," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

CNMI officials had also asked the U.S. military to designate Tinian International Airport as a divert airfield instead of Saipan International Airport.

They said there are multiple residential villages adjacent to the Saipan airport that would be heavily impacted by increased noise levels, both from construction and from subsequent operational activities related to the project.

Ed Guerrero, Commonwealth Ports Authority director, said most of the areas that the military seeks to work on are in areas of significant historic importance. He said the Historic Preservation Office is reviewing possible impacts of any military activities on these areas.

"We have not given our authorization. We have not said yes or no because we need to look into the impacts," he told lawmakers yesterday.

On Tinian, the closest residential development area is over one and a half miles away from the airport. CNMI officials also said the Tinian airport alternative would reduce potential conflicts between commercial and military activities.

In yesterday's presentation, FAA's Cornelison said "no matter what the Department of Defense wants to do in this part of the world, the islands here are so small that no matter how small of a footprint that it to their operation…[it will be] big when you lay it on Guam, or Tinian, or Saipan."

"And they all come with significant impact," he added.

CUSTOMS

From Page 1

of funds.

This has left four highly trained dogs sitting idle and passenger and luggage inspection times taking longer than usual since customs personnel are forced to do manual checks.

Acting Customs director Joe C. Mafnas confirmed yesterday that they have hired four dog handlers, including one former dog handler that stayed with Customs under a different unit.

"The Customs K9 Unit will be up and running again," Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune.*

Mafnas, who was appointed to his old job in March, albeit in an acting capacity, said that Customs tapped Criminal Justice Planning Agency grants to revive the K9 program.

While three newly-hired employees will undergo the 10-month dog handler certification training, the fourth one—as a former dog handler—will have a shorter training.

This means he could soon start handling one of the specially trained dogs to help detect illegal drugs and explosives in incoming passengers, luggage and cargo, among other things.

Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), who worked at Customs for 14 years before becoming a lawmaker, separately said yesterday he expects the K9 unit to be in full swing by June or earlier, once all the handlers complete their training.

"I'm glad the K9 unit is being revived. The use of dogs had always been helpful in the past. Although it's just one of the Customs tools, it's been helpful in detecting illegal drugs and explosives. Programs like these being revived is very good news for the CNMI. And I am still committed to making sure the 2014 budget will have enough funds to continue the K9 program," he said.

The CNMI Customs' K9 Unit used to be a "model for the Pacific, providing training for dog handlers not only in the CNMI but also from Palau and American Samoa.

Mafnas said Customs will also be working with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management to seek funds to repair two Customs x-ray vans that have also been sitting idle for about a year.

GUAM

From Page 1

striking means" on standby for a launch amid speculation in Seoul and Washington that the country is preparing to test a mid-range missile.

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland also said Thursday it has entered coordinates for targets. But it didn't elaborate on what it meant. The statement follows a recent torrent of warlike rhetoric seen as an effort to raise fears and pressure outside governments into policy changes.

The comments would carry more weight if they came from a military-related agency.

Analysts believe North Korea is extremely unlikely to stage an attack. But outside officials have said Pyongyang appears to be preparing to test-fly a missile that could reach Guam.

■■■

Guam's emergency alert system, which sets off sirens across the island and interrupts regular television and radio broadcasts to deliver information, was tested at 10am (0000 GMT) Thursday.

Gov. Eddie Calvo said the test had been successful and the Guam Department of Homeland Security's joint information centre was now operating 24-hours a day to provide advice to the island's population of 180,000.

Homeland Security has described the chances of a North Korean attack as remote, noting that Guam "is protected by the greatest nation and military in the world, the United States of America."

But as a precaution, it launched a campaign this week urging residents to prepare emergency kits and family disaster plans.

Fact sheets have been distributed around the island advising residents on how to protect their families, stay informed, and perform tasks such as blast-proofing doors and windows with plastic and tape.

Calvo said he had received assurances from U.S. military commanders on the island, which bristles with American military facilities and bases, that defenses were "strong and adequate."

"Even though we're protected, it's important we are vigilant," he said. "Look at the fact sheets, be prepared, and stay tuned for news coming out of the joint information center."

Guam, which came under U.S. control in 1898 after the Spanish-American War, lies about 3,380 kilometers (2,100 miles) southeast of North Korea, meaning it is theoretically in range of Pyongyang's untested Musudan missiles.

Washington has scrambled to deploy its THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missile shield to Guam, a truck-mounted system capable of tracking and shooting down an enemy projectile.

Despite Pyongyang's menacing rhetoric, many islanders say their daily life has not been disrupted by the threat of a missile strike.

"At home, we discuss it from time to time but we are not making any preparations because we know that it's just saber-rattling," Gina Tabonares-Reilly told AFP earlier this week.

"There are good enough missile interceptors underneath our waters... North Korea knows that and they are smart [enough] not to commit suicide."

4 lawmakers off to New Zealand for parliamentary forum

»3 recently returned from Marshall Islands

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four members of the 18th Legislature will be going to Wellington, New Zealand next week for a regional parliamentarians' forum, while three from the CNMI including one lawmaker returned this week from Majuro in the Marshall Islands for a Pacific Islands Development Bank meeting.

Rep. Tony Benavente (IR-Saipan), Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) will be attending the Pacific Parliamentary Forum from April 18 to 22.

The forum of Pacific parliamentarians and political leaders focuses on strengthening regional governance, building a stronger democracy across the Pacific, and addressing issues of concern to the Pacific.

Taimanao, Villagomez, and Sablan separately said yesterday that the Forum is shouldering all the expenses for this trip.

"No CNMI money will be spent on this trip. We were invited to this forum for leaders in the Pacific," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), special adviser for the lieutenant governor Paul Manglona, and former representative Diego Benavente returned this week from a PIDB meeting in the Marshall Islands.

Deleon Guerrero was elected chairman of the PIDB board of governors for 2013-2014. Manglona attended the PIDB board of governors' meeting on behalf of Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider. Benavente, meanwhile, is a long-time member of the PIDB board of directors.

"It was my first time to attend this meeting, and I'm thankful for their confidence in selecting me as chairman of the board of governors. I am also chairman of the Capitalization/Funding Task Force. We also talked about the development of a five-year strategic plan for PIDB covering 2014-2019 and the 2012 audit report," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

He said PIDB posted growth in its total assets, from $9.072 million in 2011 to more than $9.49 million in 2012.

Deleon Guerrero said one of the major topics discussed is opening up PIDB to "associate members," which will not only strengthen regional cooperation but also help boost the bank's portfolio.

He said the trip was funded by both PIDB and CNMI government.

PIDB is a regional development bank that finances the needs of the people and businesses in the CNMI, Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia's Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

Repeat offender cries after being slapped with maximum sentence

A repeat offender broke down in tears after Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho slapped him with a maximum sentence of one year in prison for stealing a box of choco pie.

George I. Moses Jr., 25, burst into tears after hearing the sentence.

"It appears that you have learned all the wrong lessons," Camacho told Moses.

The judge sentenced Moses to the full maximum one year imprisonment, to be served day for day, without the possibility of parole.

Moses was ordered to start serving his time immediately.

Camacho pointed out that Moses was sentenced to just days in previous convictions.

In a 2010 case, Moses was convicted of criminal mischief and was sentenced to two years, all suspended except for 30 days with credit of two days time served.

In a 2006 case, he was convicted of criminal mischief and was sentenced to six days in prison, all suspended with credit of six days for time served.

In a 2010 traffic case, Moses was convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol and was sentenced to 30 days, all of which were suspended except for five days with credit for eight hours.

In the latest case, Moses and two other co-defendants were charged with 20 counts for burglarizing a house and stealing some items on Dec. 17, 2011 on Saipan.

Moses allegedly damaged the back exit door, door jams, door lack, wall clock, CD's, and softball trophies. Moses and his co-defendants also allegedly stole a DVD player.

He signed a plea agreement with the government and pleaded guilty to stealing a box of choco pie.

Assistant attorney general Chemere Mcfield recommended the maximum sentence of one year. Chief public defender Douglas Hartig recommended weekend jail time, community work service, fine, and probation.

Moses' co-defendant, Ricky Vincent P. Itibus, was sentenced to 72 hours of time served. Itibus pleaded guilty to DUI.

The jury trial for the third defendant, Joanne Josepha Itibus Moses, will be on July 15. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

U Save Car Rental
#1 choice on Saipan with the BEST affordable rates on island!
WE BUYING USED CARS!!!
FREE pick-up and drop off service
989-4676 / 888-2205
Located in Chalan Laulau, Middle Rd.
Some conditions may apply

Thai Style Massage
Spring Special
1 hour massage for $15.00 per person
Valid only for 2 or more people within a group.
Open Daily 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.
Tel.: (670) 287-2969
(670) 285-4466
Also Available GIFT CERTIFICATES
6 hour massage for only $100.00
Located on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan
Next to New Wave Dental

TAX ASSISTANCE SERVICES
(ALL KINDS OF TAXES)
LP ACCOUNTING
Rm. 304, 3rd Floor Marianas Business Plaza
(formerly Nauro Building)
Business Hours: 8:30am - 6:00pm (Mon.-Fri.)
9:00am - 4:00pm (Saturday)
Tel: 234-3800, 285-3900
Contact Loida or one of our friendly staffs

STEEL BIG SALE
MAYFLOWER CORPORATION
TEL: (670) 233-9688
Garapan, middle road along Mobil gas station

ITEM	SIZE	PRICE
ROOF TIN (ALUMINUM)	36" X 14'	$25.00
ROOF TIN (ALUMINUM)	36" X 16'	$25.00
ROOF TIN (ALUMINUM)	36" X 20'	$35.00
SQUARE TUBE (GALVANIZED)	1" X 20'	$10.00
SQUARE TUBE (GALVANIZED)	1 1/2" X 20'	$10.00
BARBED WIRE CHAIN LINK	5' X 50'	$90.00
SCREWS	1 LB	$1.00

Everything on Sale, Everything must go

Windows Phone 8
Simply Brilliant
NOKIA
11:20
Camera
Customize
BELIEVE
XBOX
Fruit Ninja
Lite
Kid's Corner
A worry free way for your kids to play
Now the kids can play with your phone, without sending emails to your boss.
Nokia Lumia 822
4.3" Display
8 MP Main
1.2 MP Front
802.11a/b/g/n
Bluetooth
$259
with unlimited talk, text, & data
One of the biggest advances in the new Lumia 822 is the simplicity that's built in. The intuitive Windows® Phone 8 start screen with live tiles lets you personalize your phone around the way you live. All the apps and features are right at your fingertips.
IT&E
Life in Motion
$69 /month
UNLIMITED TALK, TEXT & DATA
www.ite.net | customercare@itehq.net
ROTA 532-3599 | TINIAN 433-0210 | SAIPAN 682-4ITE(4483) | GUAM 922-4ITE(4483)
*Some Conditions apply. While supplies last. Requires $69 Unlimited Plan on a 24 month term.

Tobacco, alcohol merchants educated on 'no sale to minors' law

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Participants of the 2013 Tobacco Merchant Workshop gather for a group photo during the event held Wednesday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The director of the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division emphasized Wednesday with alcohol and tobacco retailers that compliance with the law is the key to a successful business.

David R. Maratita noted that retailers have shown willingness to abide by laws that prohibit the sale and use of tobacco products among minors, which is why their agency collaborates with other institutional partners to educate these retailers and ensure compliance.

Maratita, along with Vincent Camacho with the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, addressed participants of the 2013 Tobacco Merchant Workshop hosted by Commerce's ABTC Division, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health, CJPA, and the Enforcing Underage Drinking Law Task Force that includes the Department of Public Safety.

Over 40 alcohol and tobacco merchants on island took part in the workshop held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Maratita said the event is tailored to inform the retailers about new regulations, policies, and guidelines involving tobacco and alcohol products. In the CNMI, Public Law 11-75 prohibits the sale, use, or possession of tobacco and tobacco products to minors or those below 18 years old.

He said that Wednesday's participants included those who were cited for selling tobacco to minors this year. Maratita said they conduct sting operations every month and last month, 22 tobacco licensees or about 9 percent of 253 licensees were found in violation.

"The goal is to reduce the number of violations," Maratita told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that compliance rate among retailers varies each sting operation.

According to Maratita, they seriously take the issue of tobacco sales to minors, addressing violations through workshops and other outreach programs that educate the business community and ensure compliance.

Reyna Saures, prevention services manager with the Substance Abuse Prevention Program of the Division of Public Health, agrees. She said the workshop is part of the division's Synar program, which sees to it that surveys are conducted annually to determine compliance among retailers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The Synar program involves undercover youth inspections as part of the survey. "It's really not a sting operation. Our hope is that we have 100 percent compliance—that's what we want," said Saures.

She emphasized that they employ a "prevention-minded" approach since tobacco use among the youth is directly linked to accessibility. In other U.S. states and territories, tobacco buyers get carded even if they are beyond the legal age, ensuring that laws are enforced and that minors don't get to buy tobacco and tobacco products.

"If they cannot get it—and they should not be able to get it—their use goes down. It's proven. If they can't get it, they're not going to use it. That's why we work with tobacco retailers to make sure that it's not easy to get it," she said.

Saures said their partnership with retailers, other agencies, parents, and the youth themselves is a multi-faceted way of ensuring that the youth of the CNMI are healthy since tobacco and alcohol are high-risk factors for non-communicable diseases.

While the workshop was originally intended only for tobacco retailers, Maratita said they decided to include alcohol merchants and educate them about Public Law 17-83 that made massive changes to existing statutes on alcohol sale and consumption involving minors.

For more information, call 664-3065 or 236-8703.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DLNR/DFW-102

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 30, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"AVIAN RESEARCH PROJECT FOR THE DEPT. OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PARTS, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

VISIT TOKYO $300*
FOR AS LOW AS
Travel period:
from 15 April – 30 June 2013
Last ticketing date: 15 May 2013
exclusive of taxes and other fees
World Tour & Travel
Worldwide Insurance
Other Services Offered: Various Insurance Lines:
• Workmens Compensation • Automobile
• Property • Liability • Homeowners • Marine
Tel.: 233-3600/3700/3605 • Look for: Rafi, Ren or Rina
Feel free to visit us at 2nd Floor of Maganda Utang Store M2M Bldg Garapan.
DFS GALLERIA
◄ BEACH RD. Garapan Street MIDDLE RD. ►
Bank of Guam
M2M BLDG.
Serving Islands for over 20 years!

Weekend Food Fair!
EVERY FRIDAY
AND SATURDAY
6:00 - 9:00PM
Food $1.00, $2.00
and $3.00 menu
Kanoa Resort
Saipan
Beach Road, Susupe P.O. Box 500369, Saipan MP 96950
T : 1 (670) 234-6601 F :1 (670) 234-8007
E : reservation@kanoaresort.com
W: www.kanoaresort.com

Head Start, child care program to join tomorrow's ARC Walkathon

Musician Johnson found guilty

Dan Kalikohua Johnson, a musician accused of sexually abusing a minor, was found guilty yesterday in Superior Court of all charges.

After deliberating for less than five hours, the six jurors reached a unanimous verdict, finding the 36-year-old Johnson guilty of attempted sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, who ruled on the misdemeanor charges, also found Johnson guilty of one count of assault and battery and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Johnson will be sentenced on May 29 at 9am.

The abuse happened on May 17, 2009, while the attempted abuse occurred on June 23, 2012.

The victim, now 16 years old, testified during the trial that began Monday.

Assistant attorneys general Nicole Driscoll and Margo Brown prosecuted the case. Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer is counsel for Johnson.

Police said the investigation began on June 24, 2012, when they received a call about a girl who ran away from home. When a detective met and asked the girl why she ran away, she said that Johnson sexually abused her on May 17, 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

» PSS to provide buses for three school participants

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter is excited to have the participation of the Head Start Program of the Public School System and the Child Care Program of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs for its 27th Annual Red Cross Walkathon tomorrow.

Red Cross executive director John Hirsh said yesterday that this would be the first time that they will see the two programs involved in one of their signature fundraising events.

Both programs will join 29 public and private schools in the walkathon that will begin tomorrow at 6am at the 4-H Building in Susupe. For a $15 registration fee, participants will receive a T-shirt and free refreshments.

■ ■ ■ ■

The Public School System will be providing bus transportation for American Red Cross Walkathon participants at Kagman High School, GTC Elementary, and Tanapag Elementary School on Saturday, April 13. The buses will be staged at 5am and are scheduled to depart their sites at 5:30am. Participants will be dropped off at the 4-H Building, Susupe. The buses will be staged at 10:30am at the 4-H Building and scheduled to depart at 11am to their respective drop-off locations.

Elementary students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

All students must have a signed waiver form before entering the bus.

For more information, contact your child's school coordinator or the NMI Chapter office at 234-3459.

■ ■ ■ ■

Tomorrow's walkers will have the option to choose any of the three available courses along Beach Road—2k, 5k, and 10k—all of which will have respective markers.

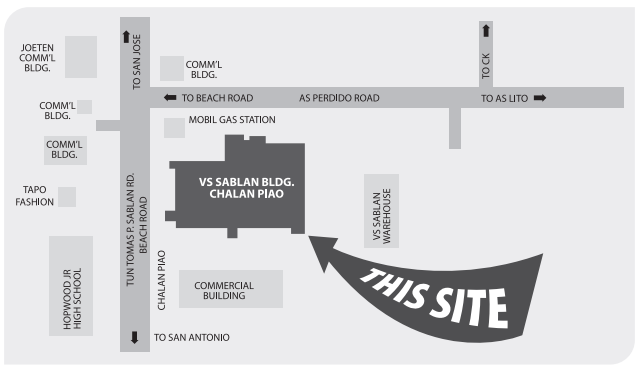
Tayna Camacho, Red Cross board of director, said early participants will get a power bar and a chance to watch the Let's Move CNMI flash mob.

Saturday's event will also feature a health fair with about 25 exhibitors. Free blood pressure and glucose screenings will be offered, including various game booths and other fun activities such as face painting and a petting zoo.

According to Hirsh, they expect to have some 3,000 participants who will help them raise some $50,000 to support the Red Cross mission in the Marianas.

"With all the planning and coordinating that has taken place in the past couple of months, we expect this to be our largest turnout in the history of our Walkathon," Hirsh told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan Enterprises, Inc
***dba* SABLAN REALTY**



With Three Great Commercial Building Locations in Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, and San Jose

VS Sablan Plaza Indoor Bazaar in Chalan Piao
Now Open Daily 10:00AM to 7:00PM
They Have what you need at the Right Price.
House Plants, Orchids & Housewares, Clothing and Accessories on Sale Every Day
Visit Melanie's Gift Shop, Morning Glory & KRM General Merchandise
Sablan Building Chalan Kanoa
Home of **Pena House Boutique** & the **Bank of Saipan**

SABLAN REALTY
invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations. **Maintenance Free.**
Common Areas & Grounds Cleaned Daily.
Commercial Space for Rent
at our San Jose & Chalan Piao Buildings.

Sablan Building in San Jose
First Floor: Three Units Available. 600 sq.ft. at **50¢ per square foot**. Units on the **Second Floor** are also available at **50¢ per square foot.**
At **Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA** we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **65 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 700 sq. ft. to 1400 sq ft.
Large 4500 square foot space on the **second floor** that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at **35¢ per square foot.**
Second Floor - Office Space, 1,400 sq. ft. at **50¢ per square foot.**

At our Chalan Piao Location – Apartment for Rent
3rd Floor - 2 bedroom, 1 full bath with Refrigerator.
800 sq.ft. $350.00

For Lease – 53,500 Sq Meters Available for Lease in Kanat Tabla.
Ocean View. 31 years Remaining on Lease.
Asking 10.00 per square meter. Negotiable.
– 3,779 Sq Meters Available for Lease at Laulau Bay.
44 years Remaining on Lease.
Asking $25.00 per square meter. Negotiable.

Warehouse For Lease – 6750 Square Feet with Storage Yard Fenced in Totaling 2000 square meters.
Located at our Chalan Piao location.
Asking $2,000.00 per month. Negotiable.

Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-2454 Email Address: vicente_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.

April Showers Early Bird Sale

25% OFF
Furniture, Whirlpool Appliances, Power & Hand Tools, Plumbing, Electrical, Selected Hardware, Paint Sundries (ex. Rollers/Brushes/Roller Covers excluding paint), Lawn & Garden, Pet Supplies (excluding Dog Food), Automotive, Cleaning Supplies & Housewares

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2013
FROM 8 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

15% OFF
Garden Power Tools, Air Compressor, Generator, Pressure Washer, Bed Sets & Mattress/foundations

10% off Chain Saws

Some items not discountable / Sale items not included (Lumber, Building Materials, Water pump, Water Heater and etc.)

ACE® The Helpful Place!
ALL LOCATIONS - Saipan and Rota

- Except Sale Items
- Cash and Carry
- Some items not discountable
- No rain checks
- Delivery charge $10.00
- Credit card acceptable
- In stock merchandise only

We accept major credit cards

Man gets 5 months in jail for stealing from tourist

A man who was caught on surveillance camera stealing 80,000 Japanese yen or approximately $900 from the pouch of a tourist was slapped with a five-month prison term.

Mark Escobar, 31, pleaded guilty to theft on Wednesday as part of a plea deal and was slapped with a five-year sentence, all suspended except for five months, to be served without parole.

Escobar was given credit for the three days he has already served in jail. He will start serving his sentence on April 29 at 8am.

After completing his sentence, Escobar will be placed on supervised probation for five years. He was required to perform 200 hours of community service, pay a $200 fine, $100 court assessment fee, plus $300 in probation fee.

According to a plea agreement, Escobar stole 80,000 Japanese yen from Hayato Kimura's wallet at the VIP Lounge of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on Dec. 26, 2012. Escobar was an employee of the VIP Lounge at the time.

Police detective Nadia L. Saralu stated in her report that on Dec. 26, 2012 at 3:01pm, a police officer responded to the airport where a theft case was reported to have occurred.

Saralu said the officer learned from an employee of LSG Sky Chef that on Dec. 22 in the afternoon, Escobar stole 80,000 Japanese yen from a tourist's pouch.

The LSG employee told the officer that Escobar was just a part-time employee of LSG.

When confronted by the police officer, Escobar admitted stealing the money but said he flushed it down the toilet.

Saipan Tribune learned that Escobar subsequently returned the money.

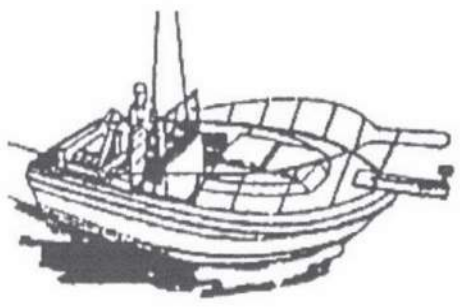
Kimura stated that he was eating at the VIP Lounge and was about to get up to get a drink when he noticed his pouch was missing.

Kimura then saw Escobar holding his bag and asking who its owner was. The tourist then noticed that his money missing.

Saralu said a review of the surveillance camera showed Escobar taking the bag of the tourist that had been left on the buffet table and placing it on top of a trash can behind the supply counter. Escobar then took the bag and brought it to the supply cabinet. Later he returned the bag to the top of the trash can then walked to the supply counter where customers were seated and asked who owns the bag. He then handed the bag to the victim.

After the incident, Escobar was fired from his job. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CAPTAIN'S LICENSE



ADAMS MARINE SEMINARS
www.adamsmarine.com
P. O. BOX 99
CRYSTAL RIVER, FL 34423
USA toll free tel. # 877-447-1950

U. S. COAST GUARD "APPROVED" CAPTAIN'S COURSE & TEST

O.U.P.V. (6 PAK) COURSE & TEST - TOTAL $945.00

Course Schedule: 8 DAYS: 8:00am to 5:00pm Test on the 9th. Day

CPR and FIRST AID course included at no additional charge

PRICE INCLUDES: TEXTBOOK & the use of all EQUIPMENT NEEDED

NO HIDDEN COSTS !!!

** SAIPAN,CNMI - STARTS: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 24, 2013

Location: Pacific Island Club

* TUMON, GUAM - STARTS: MONDAY - APRIL 15, 2013

Location: Holiday Resort - Tumon, Guam

---------- ALSO OFFERING ----------

100 TON / MASTER UP-GRADE COURSE & TEST

Master Course Schedule: Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 8:00am to 5:00pm

* TUMON, GUAM ($350.00 Total) - STARTS: WEDNESDAY - APRIL 24, 2013

* ALSO, Commercial Towing Endorcement Class available in Guam & Saipan - $80.00

LICENSE REQUIREMENT

360 Days Experience in Boating for O.U.P.V. /// 720 Days Experience for Master Up-Grade

Attend the Course & Pass Adams Marine Seminars Test

OBTAIN "TWIC CARD" (Transportation Workers Identification Credential)

CURRENT CPR & FIRST AID // DRUG TEST & PHYSICAL

SEND PAPERWORK TO THE COAST GUARD IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR LICENSE!

NO TESTING WITH THE COAST GUARD!! **** CALL NOW / SEATING IS LIMITED: ****

**** SAIPAN: Local Contact: Captain Norman Tenorio (670) 234-6267 (day)

**** GUAM: Local Contact numbers are :

Captain Jerry Barcinas (671) 797-5365 or Captain Neri Blas (671) 727-3325

**** or call direct (Florida): Adams Marine Seminars: toll free # (877) 447-1950

(Please remember the time difference when calling Florida)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 12, 2004

Mining investor seeks MPLA action

Citing its importance to the CNMI economy, U.S.-based investor, Azmar International, is puzzled over Marianas Public Lands Authority's seeming inaction on the Mt. Pagan ash and pozzolan mining project despite its significance to the CNMI economy. Azmar International local spokesman Don Farrell said the project proposal could rake in more cash for the Commonwealth but that he wonders why the MPLA cannot seem to decide at once on Azmar's application. "We're talking here of huge income for the government that is way above (that from) existing industries. But what's holding them (MPLA) back?" asked Farrell in an interview, wherein he expressed concerns MPLA's indecisiveness would negatively affect the prospects of the Mt. Pagan mining business.

NMC rules out governor has interest in La Fiesta

Northern Marianas College officials expressed doubts about any "personal motive" of Gov. Juan N. Babauta in the $7.5 million La Fiesta acquisition for NMC's Pacific gateway project, saying that the original owners of the land, some of whom are his distant relatives, would not benefit directly from the NMC deal. "It can't be a personal motive. They (owners) have been paid already. There's no direct benefit to them," said NMC acting president Tony Deleon Guerrero when asked about the issue. In a separate interview, NMC board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds aired a similar opinion, noting that NMC was outside the original land lease agreement between the landowners and its lessee, Hotel Nikko Saipan, a subsidiary of Japan Airlines.

Apr. 12, 2005

EPA releases $99M grant funds

The CNMI is now eligible to apply for a $167,800 grant after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of the fiscal year 2005 congressional appropriations funding for the Public Water System Supervision and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs. The CNMI's allocation of $167,000 under the PWSS program is $44,000 higher than the amount allocated for Guam, which is $123,000. The amount, however, is lower than what the CNMI got last year, which was $171,200. In fiscal year 2001, the CNMI got $129,800. This went down to $129,600 in fiscal years 2002 and 2003, before climbing to $171,200 in FY 2004.

Needy veterans benefit from Buddy Poppies

Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Saipan Post 3457 will be distributing Buddy Poppies at the Flame Tree Festival this weekend. According to senior vice commander Barry Hirshbein, VFW bylaws require that the proceeds from Poppy distributions must be used to benefit disabled and needy veterans and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans. "What better way to help our veterans than by distributing this little red flower of remembrance," Hirshbein said. "We encourage everyone to look for us at the festival and get a Buddy Poppy to help honor those who have served, and those now serving, our country."

Apr. 12, 2006

'PSS will lose arm and a leg under wage cut'

The government's wage cut proposal could cause CNMI public schools to lose $20 million in federal funding and over one-third of its teaching staff, education officials warned the Legislature on Monday. Board of Education chair Roman C. Benavente and Education Commission Rita H. Inos, in a written comment on House Bill 15-115, said the wage cut measure is bad for the Commonwealth economy and public schools. "We anticipate that this wage reduction bill will only exacerbate our existing difficulty in recruiting teachers and other auxiliary service providers to meet our school's needs," the PSS officials said.

Fitial uses own funds for Taiwan visit

Diplomatic sensitivities have prompted Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to make last-minute changes to his plan for his Taiwan trip today. Fitial, who will visit Taipei upon the invitation of the Taiwan government, will travel on his personal expense and will meet only potential investors during his trip. The original plan was for the Taiwan government to pay for the trip. "The change on the Taiwan trip was prompted by our desire to strictly adhere to the 'one-China' U.S. policy. Under our Covenant agreement with the United States, we are bound to adhere to U.S. national policy regarding foreign affairs," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

Senate OKs 98.4 pct. drop in PSS' water service rates

PREPPING FOR AN INTERVIEW NMC

Michelle Sablan from Pena House and Iridescent Boutique recently talked to students at the Northern Marianas College about how to dress and look professional for a job interview. The discussion was part of NMC's Career Week activities organized by the NMC Career Center to help students and members of the community gain employment. The workshop is one of several planned for Career Week at NMC. For a complete schedule of workshops, visit www.nmcnet.edu. The activities culminate in a Career Fair on April 18 where local companies and organizations will be featuring various job opportunities.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By a vote of 8-0, the Senate passed Wednesday a bill mandating the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to reduce the Public School System's water service rate by 98.4 percent—from $44.30 to 72 cents per 1,000 gallons.

The bill also mandates CUC to lower PSS' wastewater service rate from $68 to $3 per 1,000 gallons—a 95.6 percent drop.

Senate President Ralph Torres' (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 18-7, Senate Substitute 1 now goes to the House for action. Co-sponsoring the bill are Sens. Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) and Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).

"I'm glad we're able to amend and prioritize PSS needs in order to alleviate their burden," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

In fiscal year 2012, PSS paid a total of $1.5 million for water and wastewater charges alone.

Prior to January 2012, PSS was paying the government rate of $54.30 per 1,000 gallons for water and $68 per 1,000 gallons of wastewater.

The Public Utilities Commission approved a rate reduction for PSS, so that it only pays $44.30 per 1,000 gallons of water.

"However, it is still higher than the commercial water rate of 72 cents for 1,000 up to 3,000 gallons," the bill states.

The bill, however, acknowledges that the reduction in PSS' water and wastewater rates require a corresponding increase in rates for other CUC customers.

CUC may recover the difference by passing on the required increase in water and wastewater rates to other CUC customers paying the government rate for water and wastewater, it adds.

Apply now for history workshop

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting applications for a 40-hour history research workshop that will be held in the last week of June at the Northern Marianas College.

This workshop will be facilitated by University of Guam professor Dr. Anne Perez Hattori and is open to high school juniors and seniors and NMC students.

To be considered for one of 16 workshop slots, applicants must be highly motivated, possess strong writing skills, and have a strong interest in local history.

The workshop will focus on practical aspects of historical research and writing.

Hattori will introduce participants to a variety of reference tools and methods with a special emphasis on oral history, family and village history, and cultural/ethnographic history.

The major products of the workshop will be original research papers and 20-minute conference-style presentations made by participants.

Successful student papers will be added to public library collections in the CNMI and Guam.

Workshop participants will also be encouraged to present their research at the 2nd Marianas History Conference to be held in Guam in late August.

Hattori

Hattori, *familian Titang*, joined the UOG faculty in 1999 after completing her doctorate in Pacific History at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

She teaches courses on the history of Guam, Micronesia, and the Pacific, as well as historical research and theory, and is the author of *Colonial Dis-Ease: U.S. Navy Health Policies and the Chamorros of Guam, 1898-1941*.

Workshop application forms may be obtained from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council office in Gualo Rai; from Lucretia Borja, at the Public School System's HRO Office; and from Thomas D. Sharts, Department Chair of Social Sciences and Fine Arts, at Northern Marianas College.

The application form may also be downloaded from the council's website www.nmihumanities.org. Applications must be submitted by 4:30pm on 31 May.

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. ***(NMI Humanities Council)***

Cancer survivors sought for MMAC dinner

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer committee is inviting all cancer survivors and those currently undergoing cancer treatment to attend the annual survivor dinner held in their honor at the MMAC event.

"Every year the MMAC committee hosts all cancer survivors at the MMAC survivor dinner. This complimentary dinner is held to honor and celebrate their perseverance and determination to continue the fight against this dreadful affliction," said 2013 overall MMAC committee chair Manny Borja.

"All survivors who register and attend the free dinner will be given a unique medallion and T-shirt commemorating their fight against cancer. In addition, all survivors may bring a guest," added Borja.

The 2013 MMAC survivor dinner is being sponsored by title sponsor Take Care/FHP. All survivors and those currently undergoing cancer treatment are encouraged to register for this event with MMAC survivor committee chair Nola Hix. Hix may be reached at 682-0050 or via email at nola.hix@gmail.com.

"Furthermore, we want to encourage all members of our community who have been directly affected by cancer to register with the Commonwealth Cancer Association so that we may keep our cancer database up to date. Registration with the CCA is voluntary and all information submitted will be kept strictly confidential," said Borja.

To register with the CCA or for more information contact CCA program director Juan L. Babauta at 682-0050 or email ccamarianas@gmail.com.

The 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on April 26-27 from 6pm to 6am at Hopwood Junior High School in Chalan Piao. ***(MMAC)***

BEACH, BEEF & BREW
5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
April 19, 2013
Beachfront, Seaside Grill
Pacific Islands Club Saipan
All you can EAT, all you can DRINK, $25 per person
Limited seats only. For reservations, call 237-5126 or email to Vivian.Taitano@picsaipan.com
Seaside Grill
Certified Angus Beef Brand
It's Miller Time
Kendall-Jackson
Pacific Islands Club Saipan
www.picresorts.com

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **ENRIQUE Q. SALAS and ROSARIO T. SALAS,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0067** **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED April 09, 2013 by order of the Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

JANET HAN KING
KING LAW OFFICE
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 520030
Tinian MP 96952
Tel: 433-0419/235-8060
Fax: 235-8070

Loren A. Sutton
LAW OFFICES OF LOREN A. SUTTON
D'Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 5593
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 989-0627
Fax (670) 235-8070

Counsels for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ZHANG, MEI JIA dba SISTER MARKET, Plaintiff, **Vs.** **EAP CORPORATION dba FILTRADE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION dba CARPET SUPPLY and SERVICES and EUFROCINIO PINON,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0051** **SUMMONS**

TO DEFENDANTS: EAP CORPORATION and EUFROCINIO PINON

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and notified to file an answer, you make the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Loren A. Sutton, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Loren A. Sutton, P.O. Box 5593, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to this Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Guma Hustisia Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed by you or for you, by your counsel, and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

DATED, this 28th day of February, 2013:

/s/ Clerk of Court

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 73

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. *She can be reached through her website at http://www.ginabarreca.com.*

Growing up with Annette and Margaret

Although they represented the opposite poles of femininity—the intimidating, well-respected and unyielding Iron Lady vs. the adorable, well-beloved and sassy Cutie Pie—both Margaret Thatcher and Annette Funicello shaped my universe growing up.

I wish I could sound erudite and sophisticated by saying that living in Thatcher's England, as I did for several years, was more powerful than watching Annette in "The Mickey Mouse Club."

It wasn't.

I adored Annette, with her unashamedly Italian name, her welcoming smile and a pair of mouse ears that looked as if they protruded directly from her skull. She was one of the few girls on television who had naturally curly hair, large features and big eyebrows. She had big other things, too (even little boys had picked up that making fun of her chest, as the more urbane among them referred to it, was acceptable) but I loved her for her essential Annette-ness: a confident cheerfulness, a straight-into-the-camera energy and her sheer love of being a girl.

Annette wasn't a tomboy, or a princess, or a wimp. She was, instead, entirely one of the gang—even as a fully fledged girl.

I might not have formed the thought "It CAN be done! You can be female and be neither marginalized nor thrust out of the center of genuine action" in words, but I bet money my tiny toddler brain was storing it all up.

I continued to be fascinated by her as Mary Contrary in 1961's "Babes in Toyland" where she stands up not only for herself against a harassing boss, but for others who needed justice as well. "I suggest that you keep your smarty thoughts to yourself and stop making cheap accusations about a nice guy" she tells him after he makes a remark not often heard in a Disney movie: "Doing your job is pleasing me. Which in your case will not be difficult. You know what I mean?"

Again, as a 4-year-old, I probably didn't understand that the evil boss, Barnaby, would need intensive sensitivity training before being readmitted to his managerial position. But I did understand that I wanted to answer back when somebody said something unfair. The magic part? Annette's character did it with a sense of humor.

I followed Annette through "Beach Blanket Bingo" and "How To Stuff A Wild Bikini" and I watched her for signs of what "we" would become. Even then I thought she could do better than Frankie Avalon, however, and I was disappointed that her snappy answers seemed to get a little fewer and further between as Annette, I and the movies aged.

It was no joke that I thought of Annette as a sister. I've discovered that many women around my age (defined as "too old for work study but too young for cremation") feel the same way. She was the Big Sister, too. She was a leader without being bossy; she was a role model without being pious or judgmental.

Thatcher was not exactly cut from the same polka-dotted cloth as Funicello. She was more like a Big Sister as Orwell might have envisioned her.

But even as a woman in my 20s who disagreed with almost

See GROWING UP on Next Page

Promises, promises, promises

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Most are forward-looking folks throughout the archipelago. That is to say they have the attention span of a mosquito that flies around all night and dies before dawn. So gubernatorial campaigns seem like distant history almost from the moment someone wins.

It's *adios*, good riddance and hello to something else.

Yet the biggest aspect of every campaign lives on, four years or longer: the victor's promises.

It isn't just hopes and dreams and cross your fingers—though often there is not much more to them than that—but a pact with the people, a set of distinct IOUs.

We pause momentarily to collect but former governor Benigno R. Fitial who promised "Better Times" shifted tune to "Let It Be" midway down the stream. And he did it as though he's delivered on the first. He failed royally on both fronts.

The only thing he left behind was a legacy of the first governor impeached, subsequently the first governor who resigned from office in disgrace and severe economic misery for the multitude. It's a filthy legacy he's earned for a lifetime!

President Obama appears to have embraced Fitial's miscreant behavior, spouting a litany of promises he doesn't understand with any sense of clarity. In golf lingo, Obama's handicap is his lack of understanding of economics.

Fitial used a litany of lies hoping to squeak through. Nah! He's not done as yet until the dust in his role on obstruction of justice has settled down. But both wanted some "links": Obama golf links; Fitial, oily links of steak and lobster.

In short, Obama now revisits President Obama to recalibrate his failed paradigms selling his signature healthcare policy. The litany of promises spouted to change the powerful emergence of anti-Obamacare has failed. Try new but realistic paradigms, sir!

Role on federal policies

Situated away from mainstream US of A, we're often at a loss in terms of major policies being cooked up in Washington that may or may not be good for us. And though we have a voice on federal policies, specifically their applicability per the Covenant Agreement, we haven't employed it to ensure our voices are heard.

Such negligence would mean the application of a myriad of regulations drafted by staff people whom we've never met nor elected. Their work products aren't subject to judicial or congressional review. This is the danger of ignoring the mandate of the Covenant Agreement.

A good example is the denial of immigration and minimum wage control that did nothing but leave in ruins the economic landscape here at home. Isn't it right that we insist for the repeal of these laws? It still is the economy, stupid! Are the liberal progressives on the Left satisfied in the miseries inflicted against the NMI just to make a political statement of who's in control?

Obamacare would impose some 32 percent in increase against all policyholders of private health insurance. How much would this imposition translate to by 2014?

There's also comedic material about the sheer size of this regulation, its implications reflect concerns spreading throughout the United States that argue Obama's healthcare reform will hurt business. Hope private industries have taken a peek at Obamacare in that "for cash-strapped entrepreneurs, it's an added burden as they struggle to run their businesses" because it will require employers—midsized and larger—to offer affordable health insurance to all their full-time employees, or else pay penalties.

Reportedly, one of the largest health insurance companies in the United States is already advising insurance brokers on how to evade the new mandates and regulations that will take effect next year. Health insurers have been warning brokers that premiums for many individuals and small businesses could increase sharply next year, when the legislation goes into effect.

■ ■ ■

Rep. Taitano's recklessness

When a politician resorts to *ad hominem* ridiculing or depicting productive citizens as corrupt, his depth turns wobbly and suspect, his integrity instantly doomed. A quick glimpse reveals their mouthwash is tainted with humiliating inconsistencies sending credibility into the ash heap of history. They begin the steady journey into political oblivion.

Rep. Mariano Taitano did exactly this when he called for an investigation of recipients awarded federal grants for economic projects under a loan program administered by DNLR. The irony of Taitano's unwarranted and specious call is the fact that he heads the advisory committee tasked to review applications.

There's the further review of progress reports required of the panel. Did Taitano fail this aspect of the review process just for the opportunity to cast aspersions capriciously and unnecessarily? So you've failed them and humiliated yourself; so what's your beef, sir? You wanted OPA to step in to cover for your fiduciary inadequacies? It's *non sequitur* at best, adolescency at worst.

Now you want an investigation because you failed to review your own materials? It's oxymoronic and ludicrous to engage recipients

See PROMISES on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Space worms over Saipan

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.

If you want something to look forward to after happy hour tonight, I've got something for you. Just after the skies darken, Jupiter, the giant of our solar system, will be hanging over the western horizon, ripe for the viewing.

Forget diamonds. The silver in the sky is free to harvest and far more interesting. All we have to do is pay attention. Everything up there has a story to tell.

I have three reasons for mentioning this topic today.

First of all, if you're looking for the best of Mother Nature's majesty, Jupiter is quite the thing, from its freaky clouds, some of which are due to a storm that has been raging for a few hundred years, to its wacky moons, one of which has hyperactive volcanoes on it.

So if you thought the Commonwealth has wicked storms and volcanoes, that's mild stuff compared to Jupiter's action.

My second reason is this: timing.

Jupiter is appearing at a convenient time, namely between dinner time and bed time. Furthermore, right now the Earth's moon isn't washing out our skies with competing light. And our good luck continues as we note that Jupiter is in the western sky, which is the easiest field for most folks on Saipan to see.

So let's get lookin' while the lookin' is good.

If you look west from Saipan after sunset, you'll note the constellation Orion, with its trademark three-star line making a little belt in the sky. Hey, even the mighty Orion has to keep his trousers up. Anyway, shift your gaze to the right of Orion's belt by 30 degrees (your fist at arm's length covers about 10 degrees) and you'll arrive at a really bright, white object.

That's Jupiter. It's the brightest thing in that part of the sky, easily outshining a nearby star, sort of reddish or yellowish, which is Aldebaran. Accept no substitutes.

Jupiter will be sinking and by about 10pm it will hit the horizon and set in the west, just like the sun does.

So much for "where." Now for some "what."

Jupiter has over 60 moons, four of which are visible with binoculars. Well, they're not always visible, since they sometimes play peek-a-boo during their orbits. These four moons are called "Galilean" moons since it was Galileo Galilei, a pioneer with telescopes, who discovered them in the year 1610 or so.

These moons orbit Jupiter so rapidly that the arrangement changes noticeably over the course of an evening. That's a dance in the sky that I always enjoy.

We earthlings think of a "moon" as a mere rock, as lifeless as finals week and as barren as my checking account. But Jupiter has a couple of super-freaky, lively moons.

For example, the moon Europa, which has a smooth surface and an icy crust, is being studied as a prime candidate for extraterrestrial life.

Europa supposedly has a subsurface ocean, one made of good ol' liquid water, and by some estimates it might be 62 miles deep. Compare that to the 7-mile depth of the Marianas Trench, the deepest part of the ocean here on earth.

Various chemical discoveries on Europa are also said to be life-friendly, and this stuff has been in the news recently.

Europa isn't the only moon out there that is thought to have liquid water, so it's possible, maybe even likely, that any space critters in our solar system are wormy things or fishy things, swimming safely below the surfaces of the moons, which are cold and bombarded with solar radiation.

Another one of the Galilean moons, Io, is like something out of a cartoon. It's a lively ball of hundreds of volcanoes. It shoots plumes of sulfur 190 miles high.

Remember that moon-dance I told you about? Even though Jupiter is 11 times the diameter of earth, Io runs a lap around it every 42 hours. As you probably know, it takes a doggone month for our moon to run a lap around us.

Jupiter, the fifth planet from the sun, might actually be a failed star that didn't quite have enough mass to make the grade. Still, it's more massive than all the other planets in our solar system added up. Its striped bands of upper atmosphere are easily seen in small telescopes, making it a favorite for backyard astronomers, and its famous Great Red Spot is a swirl caused by a storm that has been raging for at least 400 years.

When I was a kid I'd read about Jupiter in science books, but I never knew how to find it. Hopefully, I've spared someone those woes.

So that bright little speckle in the western sky has a lot of action going on. Even if we're looking at it with a bare eyeball, unable to discern moons or other features, it's fun to know the story behind the glow.

Which brings me to my third reason for mentioning Jupiter, but that's a topic for a different day.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poor customer service

Last Friday, we went to CUC, applied, and paid for the deposit to hook up water and electricity to our home in Kagman II. The CUC office in Dandan was chaotic as there is no sense of direction where to sign up for services. After waiting for over an hour, we were told that we signed the wrong sign-in sheet and we had to sign the right sheet. We were frustrated, but we kept our cool while several customers were complaining about the sign-in process. We ignored the incident and we waited another hour to see a CUC customer service representative.

We were promised that services will be hooked up as soon as practical, but to our dismay Wednesday came and nothing had been done about our electric hook up. Their reason was that we gave the wrong lot number and CUC was looking all over for our lot on Tuesday. It was very puzzling that the water division made it to our lot on Tuesday yet the power division had no clue as to where our lot was situated.

We communicated on Wednesday with the secretary of the CUC director our predicament and the line crew arrived at our lot. They were on the property for less than five minutes and they requested for a WD 40. The CUC crew was advised that there was no WD 40 on the premises and they advised us that they were going to get the lubricant and will return at 4:30pm provided that their boss OKs it. Not only did they lie about not knowing our lot number but they never did show up to finish their job.

We paid for our security deposit for the CUC services, the director's office is aware of our situation, yet no one seems to care about their poor customer service. Do we need a director who does not care for our people of the CNMI? Do we need a director who doesn't have a clue on coordinating with his/her employees where to provide services? Do we continue to tolerate this mistreatment from a government entity like the CUC? How far can we tolerate such mismanagement? We paid for the services and we expected no less, no more but to receive what we paid for. If CUC has a problem providing services for our citizens, please let us know so we can join the families who have not had electricity for the last several years in their household. We are group of people who sponsor individuals from the mainland United States and the poor services from CUC will be a reflection on our island. Thanks, Gov. Inos for appointing an individual who can't deliver.

Segundo Castro
Marpo Valley, Tinian

Casino again?

The sponsor and scores of co-sponsors of the House of Representative introducing a new set of proposed legislation on casino gambling is stirring social and economic interest anew and certainly will divide the community on this matter right down a dichotomy of for or against casino factions. A bill introduced for legislation without a substantive argument, is like a house being built without a building plan. And, the co-sponsors of this bill are agreeing that this is justified. As strange as it is, did the sponsor of this bill study all the material facts before drafting this piece of legislation? If so, what are they and is he willing and ready to disclose the basis of this legislation in full for all to understand?

Granted that a public hearing to hear the public about this pre-filed legislation would be a part of the process, and that would certainly follow, but the question here is, what prompted the sponsor to introduce the bill in the first place? Or, do we ask the question, "Are the casino economic benefits worth the social costs?

The bottom line, if we are headed in the direction to asking more question than there are legitimate and justifiable answers, then is it better to first settle all the important questions before moving on? Hence, we are asking the Legislature to start "paying attention" to logic and soundness of legislation, because we know all too well that somehow all these are the results of rhetoric absent of concrete argument formulated by truthful and intense concentrated study of the whole situation.

In Isaiah, 42:16, it says: "I will lead the blind on their journey; by paths unknowns I will guide them. I will turn darkness into light before them, and make crooked ways straight. These things I will not forsake them." In the same way that my interest is being represented by the elected representative of my precinct, we are counting that their legislation are the results of truthful and wise deliberations of the issues that led them to supporting the casino legislation under consideration. With this in mind, we can examine the guidance in Ecclesiastes, 7:12, "For the protection of wisdom is as the protection of money; and the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom preserves the life of its owner." And, so be it, what goes in the Legislature would not go unnoticed, but we should expect our elected representatives not to flex their ignorance on this matter. They should bear ownership of their action.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

GROWING UP

From Page 10

every piece of political doctrine Thatcher espoused and would have argued with every change implemented under her watch in Great Britain, I admired this woman's ability to command the stage and speak her mind.

Thatcher refused to negotiate her femininity for her right to be in the center of the action; she was no tomboy or wimp, but another working-class girl who grew up to fight for what she believed. That what Thatcher believed was antithetical to my vision for the world did not cause me to underestimate either her influence or her effectiveness.

Besides, the prime minister also had a sense of humor (and/or good writers) and knew when to use it. "Being powerful," Thatcher said, "is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't."

That even beats Annette's line from Mary Contrary.

How dare I place Thatcher, the first female head of state of a Western superpower, in such proximity to a Mouseketeer? It's OK: I don't think Annette would have minded.

PROMISES

From Page 10

when you're the real problem from the outset!

You have wrongfully impugned misguided assertions demonizing upright citizens who have engaged in what's known in economics as "wealth and jobs creation." Their participation would aid the significant decrease in revenues we've seen headed Deep South in recent past. It's a concept you must embrace and catch up in studious fashion so you could join them turn the deepening economic cataclysm into something along the path of revenues and jobs creation!

In my book it's called "demonization" of the innocent loaded with enthusiasm to unnecessarily inflict negativity and ruination. Why would you engage in the perversion of the truth?

But aren't you supposed to help the little guy by promoting opportunities and leveling the playing field? Do you need an official invitation to fulfill this aspect of your job as an elected official? Oh, I extend an invitation for this purpose so discussion focuses on issues without the usual politically charged *ad hominem!*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

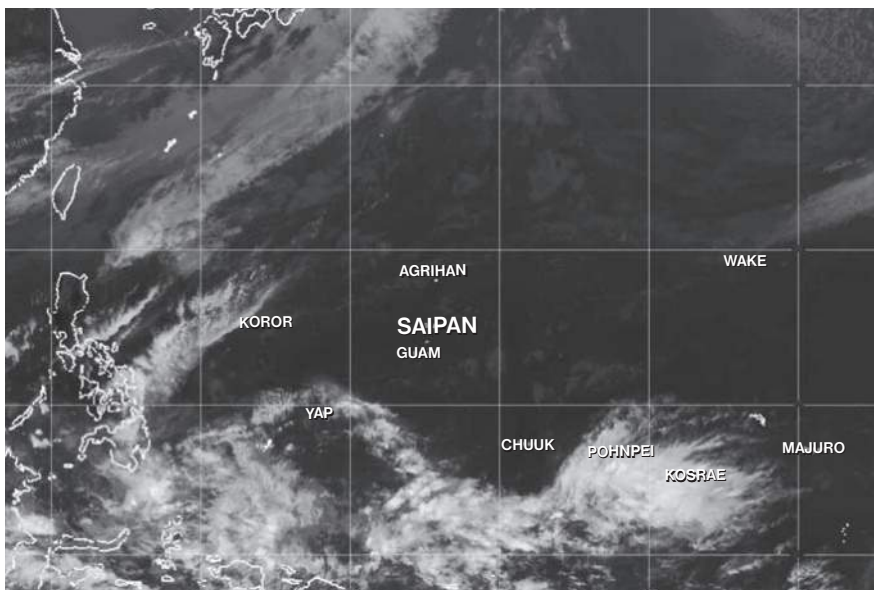
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼80
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼41
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼69
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼49
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼82
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Miami	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
New York	Rain	▲50	▼44
Osaka	Sunny	▲60	▼51
Paris	Cloudy	▲58	▼49
Pusan	Windy	▲63	▼54
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼50
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲69	▼53
Seoul	Sunny	▲65	▼43
Tokyo	Sunny	▲61	▼52
Washington, DC	Rain	▲80	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from north of Iwo To island through 25N142E to beyond 130E at 20N. Cloudiness with patchy rain and a few thunderstorms are seen along and north of the front to beyond 25N. A shear line runs southwestward from 21N180 to south of Wake Island at 18N169E through 18N169E then meanders westward to end at 19N153E. Scattered showers are present along and up to 150 miles north of the boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends southeastward from 4N130E to end at EQ145E. Scattered showers are occurring around Koror up to 300 miles northeast of a line that runs from 9N131E to EQ143E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and southwest of Kosrae between the equator and 6N from 146E to 161E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
9:16 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:15 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:06 AM	8:05 PM
Saturday	7:50 AM	8:56 PM
Sunday	8:36 AM	9:46 PM
Monday	9:24 AM	10:34 PM
Tuesday	10:12 AM	11:21 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

0Z608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
0Z604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

0Z606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
0Z604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

0Z607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

0Z603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
0Z605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
0Z702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
0Z704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

0Z746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
0Z722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

New Neighborhood Watch signboard goes up in CK

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Proponents of the Village Neighborhood Watch program pose for a group photo by the newly installed signboard in Chalan Kanoa on Wednesday.

A Village Neighborhood Watch signboard has been installed in Chalan Kanoa in an effort to deter crimes in the area.

The signboard, erected at the corner of Beach Road and Pitu St., was made possible by businessman Ta Bun Kuy who donated the actual sign; construction company GPPC, which donated the steel frame; and Precinct 2 Reps. Ralph Demapan and John Paul Sablan.

Proponents of the Neighborhood Watch Task Force gathered Wednesday for the unveiling of the signboard.

Ramon B. Camacho, who spearheads the Neighborhood Watch Task Force, said this is the second signboard they've put up, the first one being in Dandan.

"We're looking forward to installing a Village Neighborhood Watch sign in every precinct area. By displaying this sign, it will become deterrence to those who plan to commit crimes," he said.

Camacho, who chairs the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation, noted that these signboards serve as "a constant reminder" to motorists and the public that crimes are not tolerated and should be reported to authorities.

He also urged community members to establish relationships with their neighbors so they can help each other in times of need.

Block captain Janice Tenorio of the Chalan Kanoa Neighborhood Watch said the support of residents and local businesses is needed to raise awareness about the Neighborhood Watch program.

"We should all be together as civilian police and watch out for everybody, so we need to support this cause," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

A member of the CNMI State Board of Education, Tenorio expressed hope that the new signboard will not fall prey to graffiti.

She also called on businesses within Chalan Kanoa to improve their buildings in support of the islandwide effort to enhance Saipan as a tourist destination.

"It's everybody's responsibility to clean up their surroundings and help report any crimes in the area for our own safety," added Tenorio.

For his part, Chow Queen Bakery owner Ta Bun Kuy said he supports the Neighborhood Watch program and his donation is part of their community service.

"I believe that businesses should support community programs like Neighborhood Watch, which aims to put a stop to criminalities on island," he added.

Bangladeshi community to mark new year

The Bangladesh Cultural Group will be celebrating the Bangladeshi New Year or Shuvo Nobo-Borsho on Sunday, April 14, 2013, from 2pm to 10pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion in Kilili Beach. This is the year 1420 in the Bangladesh calendar.

The group is inviting everybody to take part in this celebration. There will be a program, to be followed by free food and refreshments.

For more information, contact Bangladesh Cultural Group president Rakibul Islam Minto and secretary Habib Ullah Badal at 287-6065. ***(PR)***

MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL
Announcing Open Registration
for SY 2013-2014

Introducing New Incentives

Early Bird Registration Fee
$200 per child (normally $400)
Must register by May 1st

New Family Discounts*
$600 off for 2nd child
$1,000 off for 3rd child
$1,500 off for 4th child
**Available only to parents and legal guardians of children*

$750 (per student) Scholarship & Financial Aid Packages Available
Application Forms Available May 1st

$50 Application Fee Waived
For applications completed online*
**Online application form available April 5th*

For more information, call 234-6184
or visit www.mtcarmel-edu.net.

JOIN THE LEGACY.
BECOME A KNIGHT.

Earn College Credits this Summer!

SUMMER ACADEMY

The College Access Challenge Grant is offering a scholarship of up to $800 for high school seniors and juniors to take college courses at the Northern Marianas College, under the Summer Academy. The Summer Academy affords high school students an opportunity to gain meaningful college experience while they are earning transferable college credits. In addition to college level work, Summer Academy participants will also receive college advising, academic tutoring and college preparatory and life skills training.

For more information, contact a CACG Outreach Counselor at 234-5498 ext: 1346 or email cacg@nmcnet.edu.

SUMMER ACADEMY INFO SESSION:
April 10, 2013, 5-8pm @ Student Center, Building J
April 20, 2013, 9-12pm

**FAFSA Application & Summer Academy Scholarship Applications due April 30, 2013

COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?
GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4" – $0.78/pc 6" – $0.88/pc 8" – $0.98/pc
#4 REBAR $830.00/BUNDLE
#3,#5,#6,#7,#8 REBAR $840.00/ST MADE IN KOREA
THIN-SET MORTAR $7.80 | JOINT COMPOUND $21.00 5 GAL.
ELECTRICAL PIPE 1/2" $2.40 | 3/4" $2.90
NEW ARRIVALS OF CERAMIC TILES 12"*12" $0.89/pc 8''*12" $0.60/pc
CPVC PIPE 1/2" $18.00 3/4'' $26.00 1'' $35.00
OTHERS
CEMENT $7.50/BAG
DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN-$3.00/BAG
SEMI-GLOSS INT. & EXT. LATEX $19.50/GAL | $79.99/PAIL
FLAT INT. & EXT. LATEX (PRIMER) $17.50/GAL | $66.50/PAIL
WIRE MESH 7'*50' $73.00
WIRE MESH 7'*100' $136.00
U.S. LUMBER 2X4X20 REGULAR $8.95 | 2X4X20 TREATED $15.10
15% TO 50% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

COTA gets public land for admin, maintenance offices

The Department of Public Lands recently approved the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority's request for public land for purposes of public transportation administration and maintenance facility.

Specifically, the land will allow COTA to build its new administration building and vehicle maintenance, repair, and storage facility. Last month, then acting Public Lands secretary Pete Itibus officially approved the designation of sum 10,374 square meters of vacant public land with existing warehouse located in Lower Base, Saipan.

In addition to Itibus' approval and signature, the designation agreement was reviewed and signed by Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas and Thomas J. Camacho, special assistant for Public Transportation/chairman, Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board, and concurred by Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

On this land, COTA plans to build a new one-story administration building that will house staff work station/office, One-Call/One-Click Service Center, a lobby area, board conference room, office space, copying/printing room, library and resource room, storage room, restrooms, etc.

The existing warehouse will be converted to Vehicle Maintenance, Repair & Storage Facility. This facility will include an office, tool/equipment/parts room, mechanic bay area, automatic bus water wash reclamation system, used oil storage area and enough space to store or secure COTA buses and vehicles.

A secure but environmentally designed security fence, paved parking facilities, and landscape will complement the two facilities.

Immediately after DPL officially designated the property to COTA, the secretary of Lands & Natural Resources approved the request to assist with property/parameter survey to identify and install new markers to identify the boundaries so that personnel from the One-Start Permit Center (DEQ, Historic Preservation, Fish & Wildlife, etc.) and heavy equipment operator have access and clear view of the site or property before any land clearing is initiated.

Due to the COTA grant milestone targets, a design and built might be the most reasonable avenue to approach at this time, according to Camacho.

"We'll work with DPW to move this project through to meet the grant deadlines because COTA only has two years to design and construct these facilities," said Camacho.

Once the warehouse conversion design and construction is completed, transit providers contracted by COTA will have access and use of the newly converted Vehicle Maintenance, Repair & Storage Facility for an agreed upon fees and charges, according to Camacho.

The construction of the two facilities including security fence, landscape, and paved parking lots will be funded under FTA VTCLI II Grant and the fiscal year 2013 Rural Formula Grant.

"We are very excited of this project and sincerely appreciate the FTA to fund these projects as well as Governor Inos and Lt. Governor Hofschneider's support and especially DPL, DPW and DLNR's assistance. This is where we see federal and local resources being utilized for the common good and interest of our citizens, residents and visitor's transportation needs," said Camacho. ***(Office of the Governor)***

KIA
The Power to Surprise
Free Your Mind
soul
$139 Starting at per paycheck*
Pushing the boundaries even further
Always moving forward, always evolving... that's the Soul. This exuberant, head-turning car has been given a makeover, with its unique design made even more unique through enhanced detailing, tweaked proportions and modern touches that give it a premium feel from top to bottom.
Born into the modern world
The sun rises on a bold, dynamic design, with curves and lines an expression of captivating style and sharp sophistication. The new Sportage, a car that lets you live life to the full.
Everlasting Impression
SPORTAGE
$154 Starting at per paycheck*
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.
* Kia Soul retail price $18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $300.88 or $138.87 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $18,052.80. Kia Sportage retail price $20,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $332.56 or $153.49 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $19,953.60. Documentation fees and registration not included.

Tax filing deadline on April 15

The Division of Revenue and Taxation informs all CNMI residents that the deadline for tax filing of the 2012 Individual Income Tax Return is Monday, April 15, 2013 at the office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation located at the Joeten DanDan Commercial Center.

Hours of operation are from 7:30am to 4:30pm. For taxpayers unable to file by the due date, you can request for an extension of time to file by filing Form 4868 (Automatic Extension of the time to file an Individual Income Tax Return) by the due date.

An extension of time to file is not an extension of time to pay. You will owe interest on any past-due tax and you may be subject to a late-payment penalty if untimely paid.

For tax information, contact the Division at 664-1098. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Goat Island open for goat hunting

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said yesterday that the traditional Goat Island hunting season will be open from Monday, April 15 to June 15. All interested individuals must apply for a hunting license at the Fish and Wildlife office at the DNR main office on Tinian.

A resident hunting license is $5.

Only two types of weapons can be used: a .22 rifle or .22 Magnum.

Individuals who have not submitted their report cards for the previous two hunting seasons will not be issued licenses.

Fish and Wildlife officers on Tinian, Aguiguan and Saipan will be guarding against poachers.

For further information, call 433-1400 or 1401. ***(PR)***

2013 KICK BUTT'S DAY EVENT

With Sincere Appreciation to all our Donors and Sponsors —

Thank You

- All Star Sporting Goods
- Athletes Foot
- Aqua Resort
- Commonwealth Cancer Association
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.
- CHCC NCD Bureau
- CHCC MCH-ECCS
- CHCC Immunization
- CHCC – H.O.M.E Visiting Program
- CHCC – Women Infant Children Program
- CHCC – Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program
- Coca Cola Co.
- D&Q Enterprises
- Dept. of Public Safety
- DPS DARE/LEEP Program
- Diocese of Chalan Kanoa
- Grace Christian Academy
- Hardt Eye Clinic
- Herman's Bakery
- Hopwood Jr. High School (Principal Jonas Barcinas)
- House Speaker Joseph DLGuerrero
- IT&E
- Koblerville Elem. School
- Laolao Bay Golf Resort
- Marianas Eye Institute
- Marianas High School JROTC
- Matua Riders
- NMASA – Kid's Athletic
- National Office Supply
- Pacific Islands Club
- Office of the Mayor of Saipan
- Power 99 (Ms. Tina Palacios)
- Public School System
- Rep. Roman Benavente
- Rep. Edmund Villagomez
- Rep. George N. Camacho
- Rep. Terri Santos
- Rep. Larry DLGuerrero
- Rep. Ralph Yumul
- Saipan Ice & Water Co.
- Senate President Ralph Torres and Mrs. Diane Torres
- Sen. Pete Reyes
- Sen. Ray Yumul
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Coalition (Mr. Clyde Norita)
- Tan Siu Lin Foundation
- William S. Reyes Elem. School
- 2013 KBD Committee Members

i ♥ my tobacco-free cnmi

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP. • COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS • Established October 2011

For more information call the Tobacco Quitline at 323-QUIT (7848)

Customers First
TRIPLE J

TRUCKLOAD SALE DIRECT FROM KMART

AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!

OPEN: Thursday – Friday 11am to 7pm • Saturday 9am to 7pm

Kenmore Automatic Washer
$399.95 ***3-Days Only!***

LG 47 Inch LED TV **$799.95**

Weslo Pursuit Exercise Bike
$109.95

6 Foot
Folding Table
$35.95 ***3-Days Only!***

Homelite 14 inch Gas
Powered Chain Saw
$189.95

GSC 3 Drawer
Storage
$23.95

HDX Plastic 4 Shelf
Unit Black or White
$23.95

Lifetime 44 inch Impact Portable
Basketball Post and Backboard
$129.95

Plastic
Chairs
$14.95

iLive 37" HD Sound Bar
$119.95
iPod not included

Proctor Silex
Coffee Maker
12 Cup
$18.95

Coleman 62 Quart Wheeled
Insulated Cooler **$55.95**

Weedeater
Feather Light
Bush Cutter
$124.95

Kenmore
Quick Clean
Vacuum
Cleaner
$75.95

Husky 60 Piece
Socket Set
$49.95

Husky Stubby
Wrench/Socket Set
$32.95

Dewalt 45 piece
Screwdriver Set
$24.95

Workforce
Extension
Cord 50 Foot
$19.95

Toddler Rocker
$49.95

Lasko 20 inch
Box Fan
$24.95

Primo Water
Dispenser
$159.95

Tough Tote
27 Gal Plastic
Storage Unit
$16.95

Crystal Geyser
Spring Water
24 Pack .5 Liter
$5.95 Case

Essential
Home Student
Fabric Chair
$35.95

Essential Home
Metal Glider
Chair With
Foot Rest
$159.95

Cruz Futon
Sofa Sleeper
$129.95

BBQ Pro 22.5 Round
Kettle Charcoal Grill
$58.95

Customers First
TRIPLE J
FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Come and visit us at the Triple J Wholesale Store

We reserve the right to limit quantity purchases on all items.

For more info, please call:
322-0430

AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA JCB DISCOVER NETWORK
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

PIC Saipan welcomes new banquet manager

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Pacific Islands Club Saipan's new banquet manager, Vivian Taitano, with executive chef Habib Akbar.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club Saipan has announced the appointment of Vivian Taitano as its new banquet manager, joining the ranks of experienced and dedicated team of professionals at one of the most spectacular resorts on island.

Taitano has over 10 years of background in the hospitality industry and comes to PIC Saipan from Hyatt Regency Saipan where she also served as banquet manager and in another managerial role during her last two years with the company.

"I'm just thrilled to join PIC Saipan because I know that it's a great team. I'm also very happy that I get to do what I've always loved to do, which is organizing and conducting all kinds of events," she said in an interview.

PIC Saipan has hosted all kinds of parties for different occasions—from christenings and birthdays to weddings and anniversaries. Taitano said her main responsibilities are handling inquiries and providing proposals to accommodate these events, as well as ensuring that all discussions agreed to by the management and customers are carried out.

While PIC Saipan already has reputation as a premier choice for events, Taitano looks forward to bringing changes to the table, with a focus on providing a more personal touch.

"We want our clientele to know that PIC Saipan is going to meet, even exceed their expectations. We will take care of them so that they won't have to worry about anything," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

Since joining PIC Saipan in March, Taitano said the hotel has been booked with a lot of events. She recommends that customers make their reservations for an event a week or two ahead of time. For December happenings, however, clients are urged to reserve months ahead of time so they can book their preferred dates.

Taitano will be working closely with executive chef Habib Akbar, who also hails from Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Knowing that I will be working alongside Chef Habib already makes the job a lot easier because we've worked together in the past. With the rapport that we have, we're sure to give our guests whatever they want," said Taitano.

With Taitano's strong ties with the local community, Akbar said PIC Saipan is set to attract more clients.

"I am very happy to work with Ms. Vivian," he said. "We will do our best and provide the community what they want. The most important thing is to make them feel that PIC Saipan is like hope."

Taitano emphasized that clients with limited budget need not worry as flexibility is one quality their hotel possesses.

"We want our guests to know that they can always come back with us and negotiate prices based on their budget. At PIC Saipan, we can make their budget work because we can be flexible," said Taitano.

For reservations or more information, call 237-5104 or email vivian.taitano@picsaipan.com.

JOETEN FUNDRAISER FOR ARC
From left, J.D. Tenorio of the American Red Cross, Hilarie Tagabuel of Joeten Store, Susupe, Dustian Faisao of Joeten Superstore with her son, Jake Ryan Faisao, Frances Evangelista of Joeten Ace Hardware, Susupe, and Somia Quan of the Joeten Charitable Foundation. The Red Cross, in partnership with Joeten Enterprises, Inc., companies, held a two-week fundraiser at participating stores in March that brought in approximately $5,000.
AMERICAN RED CROSS-NMI CHAPTER

Dustian Faisao of Joeten Superstore receives her prize package from American Red Cross's J.D. Tenorio in a conference room at the Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe, on Tuesday, April 9. Faisao brought in the most donations from Joeten Superstore during ARC's fundraising drive held in March.
AMERICAN RED CROSS-NMI CHAPTER

Frances Evangelista of Joeten Ace Hardware, Susupe, receives her prize package from American Red Cross's J.D. Tenorio in a conference room at the Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe, on Tuesday, April 9.
AMERICAN RED CROSS-NMI CHAPTER

J.D. Tenorio, left, of the American Red Cross, receives a check from Somia Quan of the Joeten Charitable Foundation in a conference room at the Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe, on Tuesday, April 9. Joeten Ace Hardware, Joeten Stores and Joeten Superstore raised approximately $5,000 during a two-week fundraiser in March.
AMERICAN RED CROSS-NMI CHAPTER

Hilarie Tagabuel, a cashier at the Joeten Store, Susupe, displays her prize package with American Red Cross's J.D. Tenorio in a conference room at the Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe, on Tuesday, April 9.
AMERICAN RED CROSS-NMI CHAPTER

GOOD JOB!
Congratulations to our best charcoal mocha latte deliveryman, John Santos! Greetings come from your favorite dispatchers!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy advance birthday to my Nen Eugene Blas Repeki Jr., who will be celebrating his special day tomorrow, April 13, 2013! May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings coming out from your Nen (Mel), your kids Jacob, Eujavinel, and Marleon.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to the best mom and grandma in the world, Julia Sablan Pinaula! May your day be filled with joy and happiness. Enjoy your day! We love you! Greetings coming out from your kids and most especially from all your grandkids.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Obama budget: Spending cuts, higher smokers' taxes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mixing modest curbs on spending with tax increases reviled by Republicans, President Barack Obama proposed a $3.8 trillion budget on Wednesday that would raise taxes on smokers and wealthy Americans and trim Social Security benefits for millions.

Obama's 2014 blueprint combines a $242 billion infusion of new spending for road and rail projects, early education and jobs initiatives—all favored by Democrats—with longer-term savings from programs including Medicare and the military. It promises at least a start in cutting huge annual federal deficits.

The president pitched his plan as a good-faith offer to his GOP rivals since it incorporates a proposal he made to Republicans in December that wasn't radically different from a GOP plan drafted by House Speaker John Boehner. But it follows January's bitterly fought 10-year, $600 billion-plus tax increase that has stiffened GOP resolve against further tax hikes.

"I have already met Republicans more than halfway, so in the coming days and weeks I hope that Republicans will come forward and demonstrate that they're really as serious about the deficit and debt as they claim to be," Obama said.

He was having a dozen Senate Republicans to the White House for dinner Wednesday evening in hopes of building a dialogue on the budget and other topics.

After four years of trillion-dollar-plus deficits in his first term, Obama's plan projects a $973 billion deficit for the current budget year and red ink of $744 billion for the 2014 fiscal year starting in October. By 2016, the deficit is seen as dropping below 3 percent of the size of the economy, a level that many economists say is manageable.

Obama cast his budget as a compromise offer that would bridge differences between Republicans and their desire for reducing government spending and Democrats who want more revenue from taxpayers. But it's difficult to overstate the gulf between Obama and the conservatives who are in the GOP driver's seat in Congress.

Post office retreats on eliminating Saturday mail

WASHINGTON (AP)—The financially beleaguered Postal Service backpedaled on its plan to end Saturday mail delivery, conceding Wednesday that its gamble to compel congressional approval had failed.

With limited options for saving money, the governing board said the agency should reopen negotiations with unions to lower labor costs and consider raising mail prices.

Yet the board also said it's not possible for the Postal Service to meet its goals for reduced spending without altering the delivery schedule. Delaying "responsible changes," the board said, only makes it more likely that the Postal Service "may become a burden" to taxpayers.

Congressional reaction was mixed, mirroring differences that have stalled a needed postal overhaul for some time. Some lawmakers had urged the agency to forge ahead with its plan, while others had said it lacked the legal authority to do so.

The Postal Service said in February that it planned to switch to five-day-a-week deliveries beginning in August for everything except packages as a way to hold down losses.

That announcement was risky. The agency was asking Congress to drop from spending legislation the longtime ban on five-day-only delivery.

Banks rethink the branch, but will it work?

AP

This combination of Associated Press file photos show women bank cashiers working in a London branch of the Midland Bank on July 23, 1940, left, and a JPMorgan Chase lobby in New York in March 2013.

NEW YORK (AP)—In an age when checks can be deposited by smartphone and almost everyone retrieves cash from ATMs, the corner bank can seem a relic, with its paper deposit slips, marble countertops and human tellers behind glass partitions.

But some banking executives say the brick-and-mortar branch is still the best way to serve existing customers and snag new ones. They're trying to rebuild the nation's neighborhood banks into hip, airy spaces where customers sign up for loans without touching a piece of paper, sign in to ATMs with a tap of their smartphones and talk to off-site tellers by video.

Flashiness is only part of the reason for the makeovers. Mounting costs from legal fees and new regulations—vestiges of the financial crisis—have given the banks good reason to become more efficient. The new branches will help them replace expensive human workers with cheaper machines, a development that could eventually make the bank teller an endangered species.

Most redesigns aim to let customers complete simple transactions, such as deposits, for themselves. That frees bank employees for tasks that make money, such as persuading someone who wanders in to put money into a mutual fund or refinance a mortgage.

"Banks have been talking about `branch of the future' for more than a decade," says Bob Meara, a senior banking analyst at research and consulting firm Celent. "And almost nobody has been doing anything until the past couple years."

Banks large and small are on board. In a Celent survey in June, 55 percent of banks said they were planning "significant changes" to their branches, up from 24 percent two years earlier.

At an investor conference in February, JPMorgan Chase executives touted their new branches as places where ATMs distribute exact change, machines count cash so tellers don't have to and open floor plans evoke the atmosphere of an Apple store or boutique hotel, features that other banks are also embracing.

Start Time: 6:00am Location: 4-H building-Susupe

****Saturday April 13, 2013****

Lots of fun for the whole family

10K, 5k, and 2k courses

A $15.00 donation receives a t-shirt

Free Sandwich and refreshments for walkers

DPH Health Fair • Blood Pressure Checks

Immunizations • Cooking demonstration

Carnival Games • Face Painting

Petting Zoo • DPS-Fire big truck show

Please support the American Red Cross

For more information please call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459

Premier Sponsors

Coca-Cola FOREMOST SUBWAY eat fresh. GLIMPSES ADVERTISING GLIMPSES PUBLICATIONS Scoops

Nation

Boost for background checks: Senators compromise

WASHINGTON (AP)—Conservative senators from both parties announced their support for expanding background checks for gun buyers Wednesday, giving a burst of momentum to advocates of stronger restrictions. But big questions remain about whether President Barack Obama can push significant gun controls through Congress.

The compromise between Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., boosted the chances that the Senate will agree to broaden required background checks, a step gun control groups laud as an effective way to keep weapons from criminals and the mentally ill. The senators are among the most conservative members of their parties, both have received "A" ratings from the National Rifle Association, and their endorsements could make it easier for hesitant colleagues to back the effort.

Gun control advocates still face opposition from many Republican senators and resistance from moderate Democrats, including several facing re-election next year in GOP-leaning states. In the Republican-run House, leaders have shown little enthusiasm for Obama's ideas, making that chamber an even higher hurdle.

Under the agreement the two senators announced at the Capitol, background checks would be expanded to all for-profit transactions including sales at gun shows and online, with records kept by licensed gun-dealers who would handle the paperwork. Exempted would be noncommercial transactions such as between relatives. Currently, the system applies only to sales by the country's 55,000 federally licensed firearms dealers.

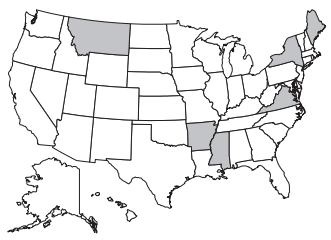
The agreement also contains provisions expanding firearms rights, and that concerns gun control supporters. Some restrictions on transporting guns across state lines would be eased, sellers would be shielded from lawsuits if the buyer passed a check but later used a firearm in a crime and gun dealers could conduct business in states where they don't live.

"Truly the events at Newtown changed us all," said Manchin, citing the Connecticut town where December's murders of 20 first-graders and six educators propelled gun control to the top rank of national issues. "Americans on both sides of the debate can and must find common ground."

Quick changes to gun laws

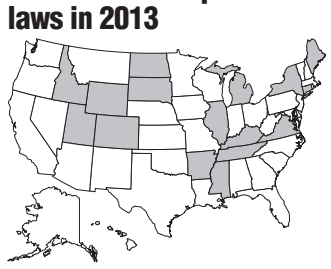
At least 15 states have passed new gun laws so far in 2013. The new laws in Colorado and New York are considered to be among the stiffest in the nation, but the majority of states with new laws acted to protect the rights of gun owners. At least six states have passed laws protecting the privacy of residents with gun permits.

States modifying public records laws



☐ Conn. ☐ R.I. ☐ Del. ☐ D.C.

States with new or modified weapons laws in 2013



■ Conn. ☐ R.I. ☐ Del. ☐ D.C.

Tighter restrictions

Colorado New laws enacted in March require background checks for private and online gun sales and ban magazines that hold more than 15 rounds

New York New law expands the state's ban on assault weapons, puts limits on ammunition capacity and has new measures to keep guns out of the hands of mentally ill people; law allows gun permit holders to request that their identifying information remain private

More gun rights

Among states that have expanded the rights of gun owners, Mississippi now allows members of the military or veterans ages 18 to 21 to carry a concealed weapon, and South Dakota now allows school employees to carry guns on the job

Newest laws

On April 4, Connecticut's governor signed into law sweeping gun regulations; on April 3, Maryland's House of Delegates approved significant changes to the state's gun laws; governor is expected to sign the measure into law

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, Tribune Newspapers reporting
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

© 2013 MCT

Thousands rally across US for immigration bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tens of thousands of immigrants and activists rallied nationwide Wednesday in a coordinated set of protests aimed at pressing Congress to approve immigration measures that would grant 11 million immigrants living here illegally a path toward citizenship.

AP

Rigoberto Ramos from Seaford, Del., originally from Guatemala, rallies for immigration reform in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Organizers said demonstrations were taking place in at least 18 states and in Washington, D.C., where a large, festive crowd gathered on the west lawn of the U.S. Capitol Wednesday afternoon. Many carried hand-lettered signs and chanted "Si, se puede," Spanish for "Yes, we can."

"We won't win immigration reform just coming to Washington. We need to walk the streets all over the country," said Ben Monterroso, national director of civic participation of the Service Employees International Union, which represents nurses and lower-wage employees including janitors and child care workers.

In Atlanta, more than 1,000 people marched around the Georgia Capitol Wednesday midday, calling for comprehensive changes to immigration policy and an end to deportation.

Supporters massed in several rallies in New York City, including in the Washington Heights section, as well as in Queens, Manhattan and The Bronx.

In San Francisco, several hundred demonstrators marched toward the federal building holding red and orange paper flowers representing the number of people deported daily for immigration violations. In San Diego, about 50 demonstrators gathered on a sidewalk outside the office of U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a sharp contrast to massive protests in 2006 when thousands of demonstrators shut down downtown streets to support looser immigration policies.

Senators writing a sweeping immigration bill have said they hope to finish their work this week, opening what's sure to be a raucous public debate over measures to secure the border, allow tens of thousands of foreign workers into the country and grant eventual citizenship to the millions living illegally in the United States.

A person familiar with proposed bipartisan immigration legislation being written in the Senate said Wednesday the bill would require greatly expanded surveillance of the U.S. border with Mexico and greatly increased detention of border crossers in high-risk areas. The person provided the information on condition of anonymity because the deliberations were private.

Gunman holding firefighters killed; 4 hostages OK

SUWANEE, Ga. (AP)—A gunman who held four firefighters for hours in a suburban Atlanta home was shot dead by SWAT members and all the hostages are slightly injured but should be OK, authorities said Wednesday.

Minutes before the police announcement, one big explosion followed by several smaller ones or gunshots were heard in the Suwanee neighborhood about 35 miles northeast of Atlanta. A SWAT officer was shot in the hand or arm, but should be fine, said Gwinnett County Police Cpl. Edwin Ritter.

The firefighters mainly suffered cuts and bruises in the explosion that authorities used to distract the suspect before they rushed the house, said fire department Capt. Tommy Rutledge.

Ritter said the gunman, who has not been identified, demanded his power and cable be turned back on. According to public records, the home is in foreclosure and has been bank-owned since mid-November.

"It's an unfortunate circumstance we did not want this to end this way," Ritter said. "But with the decisions this guy was making, this was his demise."

Five firefighters responded to what seemed like a routine medical call and were eventually taken hostage by an unidentified suspect inside the house, Ritter said. The gunman released one of the firefighters to move a fire truck.

The gunman's motive was unclear to police and fire officials. SWAT team members had surrounded the home and a hostage negotiator had been in contact with the suspect.

Rutledge said the medical call seemed routine and firefighters did not believe there was any danger. One engine and one ambulance responded.

"Our firefighters responded to a call they respond to hundreds of times, and that's a medical emergency," he said.

The explosion rocked the neighborhood of mostly two-story homes and well-kept lawns and set off car alarms all over.

Two ambulances could be seen leaving.

Air Force targets fuel, flight to find savings

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Air Force is taking aim at its big costs of fuel and flight this week, temporarily halting training operations for 12 active duty fighter and bomber squadrons across the United States in order to save nearly $300 million.

Details emerging Wednesday underscored the sweeping effect of the service's move to slash 45,000 hours of flight training between now and Oct. 1. The cuts will hit squadrons in eight fighter wings in at least seven states and the Air Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. Bomber squadrons also will likely be affected, but it will be up to the military's Global Strike Command to determine how to allocate the new flight restrictions.

The cuts, forced by congressionally-mandated spending reductions for this fiscal year, won't affect current military operations, such as fighters in Afghanistan or bombers training over South Korea. But the Air Force warned that they will have a ripple effect, sharply reducing the service's ability to be prepared for future operations because pilots must meet minimum flight hour requirements in order to fly.

With fuel, maintenance and personnel eating up a significant portion of its budget, the Air Force looked to the training flights to find savings.

The Air Force's budget chief, Maj. Gen. Edward Bolton, said large chunks of the service's budget are eaten up by military and some civilian personnel costs, contract obligations, and money to keep bases and facilities open. The Air Force also has to fund much of the major drone flights over Afghanistan, the analysis of the data, the country's ground and air-based missile defense system and its nuclear arsenal So, he said, cuts have to be found in flying hours, civilian furloughs and weapons system repairs.

The stand-down started Tuesday for eight of the squadrons. The other four are currently deployed, so when they return from their current operations they will delay the resumption of training flights until the end of the fiscal year, according to the Pentagon.

Asia

No panic in NKorea despite talk of missile test

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—As neighboring nations kept a close eye on missile movements in North Korea, people in the country's capital began celebrating a series of April holidays, including the first anniversary Thursday of their leader's appointment as head of the ruling Worker's Party.

Bracing for what South Korea's foreign minister warned could be a test-fire of a medium-range missile, Seoul deployed three naval destroyers, an early warning surveillance aircraft and a land-based radar system, a Defense Ministry official said in Seoul, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with department rules.

North Korea is believed to be readying a missile dubbed the "Musudan," named after the village where a northeastern launch pad is based. The missile has a range of 3,500 kilometers (2,180 miles), and is designed to reach U.S. military installments in Guam and Japan, experts say.

Pyongyang has not announced plans to fire a missile, but has delivered increasingly belligerent rhetoric in recent weeks in anger over joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises being conducted in the South through the end of April.

This week, it warned that nuclear war was imminent and urged foreign tourists in South Korea to take cover.

The threats are largely seen as rhetoric and an attempt by North Korea to pressure Washington and Seoul to change their policies toward Pyongyang, as well as to boost the military credentials of their young leader. North Korea does not have diplomatic relations with the U.S. and South Korea, its foes during the Korean War of the 1950s, and has pushed for a peace treaty to replace a 60-year-old armistice.

Meanwhile, on the streets of Pyongyang, there was no sense of panic and the focus was on celebrating milestone anniversaries that highlight the Kim family's hold on power in North Korea.

After marking late leader Kim Jong Il's appointment to a top government post Tuesday, North Koreans were putting on their finest clothing to celebration his son Kim Jong Un's ascension to first secretary of the Workers' Party a year ago Thursday. The post is one of a slew of top titles he claimed in the months following his father's December 2011 death.

A flower show, art performances and public dance parties are scheduled over the next few days in the lead-up to the nations' biggest holiday, the April 15 birthday of North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, grandfather of the current leader.

No military parade or mass events were expected over the coming week, but North Korea historically uses major holidays to show off its military power, and analysts say Pyongyang could well mark the occasion with a provocative missile launch in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions barring the North from nuclear and missile activity.

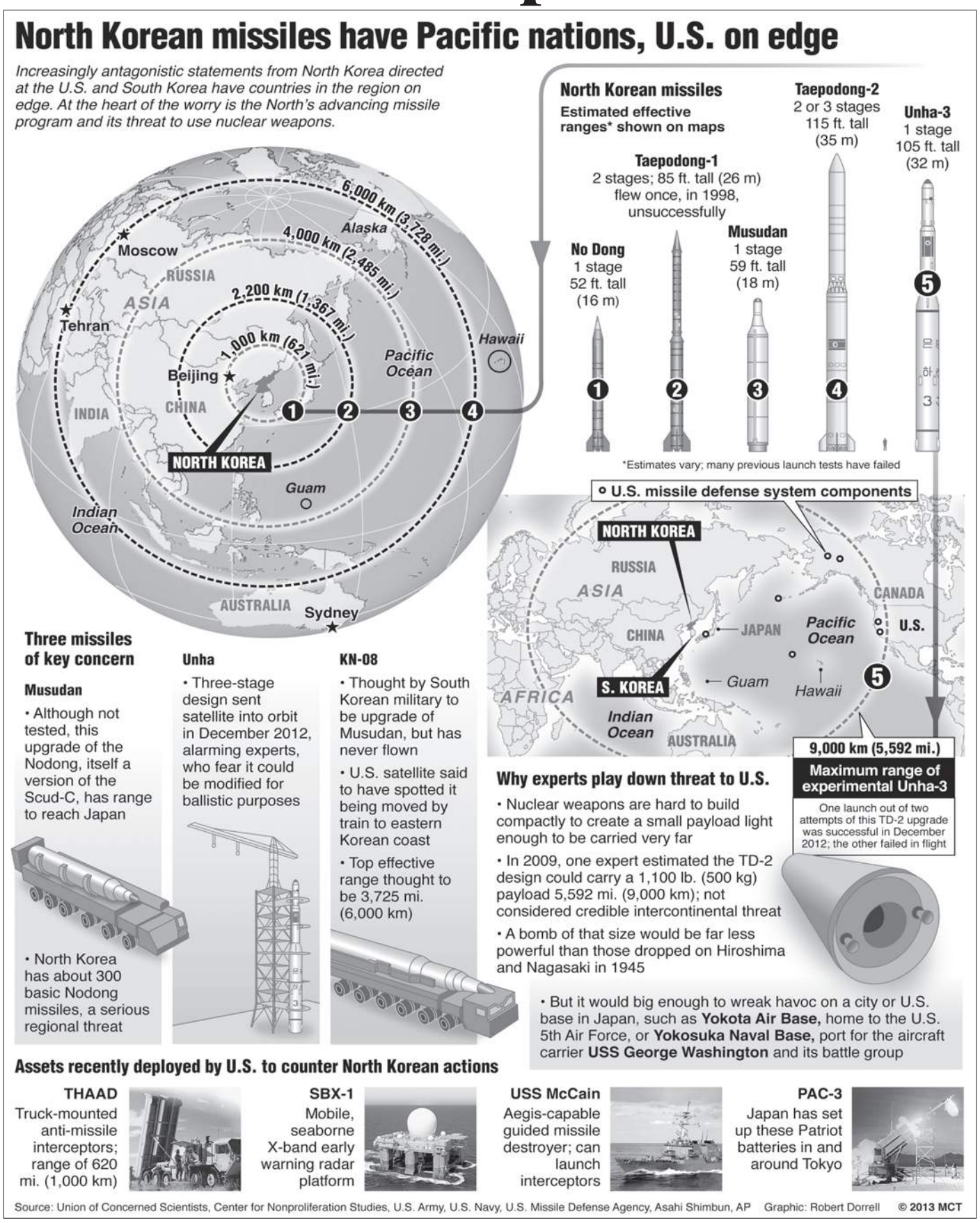
Kim Un Chol, the 40-year-old head of a political unit at Pyongyang's tobacco factory, said he had been discharged from the military but was willing to re-enlist if war breaks out. He said North Koreans were resolute.

"The people of Pyongyang are confident. They know we can win any war," he told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "We now have nuclear weapons. So you won't see any worry on people's faces, even if the situation is tense."

Kim Jong Il elevated the military's role during his 17-year rule under a policy of "military first," and the government devotes a significant chunk of its annual budget to defense. Human rights groups say the massive spending on the military and on development of missile and nuclear technology comes at the expense of most of its 24 million people. Two-thirds face chronic food shortages, according to the World Food Program.

North Koreans are taught from childhood to hate the U.S. and to gird against an invasion by "imperialists" intent on taking over the entire Korean Peninsula.

Guns and tanks are popular toys for children in the highly militarized society, and young North Koreans learn to fire guns when they are teenagers, residents say. Pyongyang sporadically holds civil air raid drills in which citizens practice blacking out their windows and seeking shelter. But no such drills have been held in recent months, residents said.


North Korean missiles have Pacific nations, U.S. on edge
Increasingly antagonistic statements from North Korea directed at the U.S. and South Korea have countries in the region on edge. At the heart of the worry is the North's advancing missile program and its threat to use nuclear weapons.
6,000 km (3,728 mi.)
4,000 km (2,485 mi.)
2,200 km (1,367 mi.)
1,000 km (621 mi.)
Moscow
Alaska
RUSSIA
ASIA
Tehran
Beijing
CHINA
INDIA
Pacific Ocean
Hawaii
NORTH KOREA
Guam
Indian Ocean
AUSTRALIA
Sydney
North Korean missiles
Estimated effective ranges* shown on maps
Taepodong-2
2 or 3 stages
115 ft. tall
(35 m)
Unha-3
1 stage
105 ft. tall
(32 m)
Taepodong-1
2 stages; 85 ft. tall (26 m)
flew once, in 1998, unsuccessfully
No Dong
1 stage
52 ft. tall
(16 m)
Musudan
1 stage
59 ft. tall
(18 m)
*Estimates vary; many previous launch tests have failed
U.S. missile defense system components
NORTH KOREA
RUSSIA
ASIA
CHINA
JAPAN
Pacific Ocean
CANADA
U.S.
S. KOREA
Guam
Hawaii
AFRICA
Indian Ocean
AUSTRALIA
9,000 km (5,592 mi.)
Maximum range of experimental Unha-3
One launch out of two attempts of this TD-2 upgrade was successful in December 2012; the other failed in flight
Three missiles of key concern
Musudan
• Although not tested, this upgrade of the Nodong, itself a version of the Scud-C, has range to reach Japan
• North Korea has about 300 basic Nodong missiles, a serious regional threat
Unha
• Three-stage design sent satellite into orbit in December 2012, alarming experts, who fear it could be modified for ballistic purposes
KN-08
• Thought by South Korean military to be upgrade of Musudan, but has never flown
• U.S. satellite said to have spotted it being moved by train to eastern Korean coast
• Top effective range thought to be 3,725 mi. (6,000 km)
Why experts play down threat to U.S.
• Nuclear weapons are hard to build compactly to create a small payload light enough to be carried very far
• In 2009, one expert estimated the TD-2 design could carry a 1,100 lb. (500 kg) payload 5,592 mi. (9,000 km); not considered credible intercontinental threat
• A bomb of that size would be far less powerful than those dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945
• But it would big enough to wreak havoc on a city or U.S. base in Japan, such as Yokota Air Base, home to the U.S. 5th Air Force, or Yokosuka Naval Base, port for the aircraft carrier USS George Washington and its battle group
Assets recently deployed by U.S. to counter North Korean actions
THAAD
Truck-mounted anti-missile interceptors; range of 620 mi. (1,000 km)
SBX-1
Mobile, seaborne X-band early warning radar platform
USS McCain
Aegis-capable guided missile destroyer; can launch interceptors
PAC-3
Japan has set up these Patriot batteries in and around Tokyo
Source: Union of Concerned Scientists, Center for Nonproliferation Studies, U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Missile Defense Agency, Asahi Shimbun, AP Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2013 MCT

Precarious Japan nuke plant raises safety concerns

TOKYO (AP)—A rat causing a power outage by short-circuiting a temporary switchboard. Another blackout occurring as workers install anti-rat nets. Holes in the linings of huge underground tanks leaking radioactive water.

Japan's crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant has run into a string of problems the past few weeks that highlight its precarious state more than two years after its reactors melted down in the wake of a devastating earthquake and tsunami.

A makeshift system of pipes, tanks and power cables meant to carry cooling water into the melted reactors and spent fuel pools inside shattered buildings remains highly vulnerable, Nuclear Regulation Authority chairman Shunichi Tanaka acknowledged Wednesday.

"Fukushima Dai-ichi is still in an extremely unstable condition, there is no mistake about that," Tanaka said at a weekly meeting of the regulatory body's leaders. "We cannot rule out the possibility that similar problems might occur again. Whenever a problem occurs, it halts the plant's operations and delays the primary goal of decommissioning the plant."

The problems have raised doubts about whether the plant can stay intact through a decommissioning process that could take 40 years, prompting officials to compile risk-reduction measures and revise decommissioning plans. The regulatory watchdog said Wednesday that it was increasing the number of inspectors from eight to nine to better oversee the plant.

Just over the past three weeks, there have been at least eight accidents or problems at the plant, the nuclear watchdog said.

The spate of problems started March 18, when a rat sneaked into an outdoor switchboard—which was sitting on a pickup truck—powering the jury-rigged cooling system and several other key parts of the plant, causing a short-circuit and blackout that lasted 30 hours in some areas of the plant. Four storage pools for fuel rods lost cooling during the outage, causing Tokyo Electric Power Co., the plant's operator, to acknowledge that it had added backup power only to the reactors, despite repeated concerns raised over a pool meltdown.

The cause of the outage wasn't clear at the time, but TEPCO later released a photo of the electrocuted rat, which had fallen on the bottom of the switchboard outhouse. The most extensive outage since the crisis started after the March 2011 disasters caused some Fukushima residents to even consider evacuation.

Two weeks later, a new water processing machine designed to remove most radioactive elements temporarily stopped after a worker pushed a wrong button. The next day, one of the fuel storage pools lost power again for several hours when part of a wire short-circuited a switchboard while an operator installed anti-rat nets. TEPCO reported three other minor glitches on the same day, including overheating of equipment related to boron injection to the melted reactors.

Regulatory officials acknowledge that rats and snakes are abundant at the plant, and TEPCO has started to take steps to protect pipes and cables from rat gnawing. Replacement of parts and equipment to those of higher quality and long-term use is in progress.

In the latest development, three of the plant's seven underground tanks are leaking. TEPCO reported the first leak early Saturday, hours after the plant's second power outage. Within days, the damage spread to three tanks, paralyzing the plant's storage plans for contaminated water.

World

Tensions emerge in al-Qaida alliance in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Tensions emerged Wednesday in a newly announced alliance between al-Qaida's franchise in Iraq and the most powerful Syrian rebel faction, which said it was not consulted before the Iraqi group announced their merger and only heard about it through the media.

Al-Qaida in Iraq said Tuesday that it had joined forces with Jabhat al-Nusra or the Nusra Front—the most effective force among the mosaic of rebel brigades fighting to topple President Bashar Assad in Syria's civil war. It said they had formed a new alliance called the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

The Syrian government seized upon the purported merger to back its assertion that it is not facing a true popular movement for change but rather a foreign-backed terrorist plot. The state news agency said Wednesday that the union "proves that this opposition was never anything other than a tool used by the West and by terrorists to destroy the Syrian people."

Talk of an alliance between Jabhat al-Nusra and al-Qaida in Iraq has raised fears in Baghdad, where intelligence officials said increased cooperation was already evident in a number of deadly attacks.

AP

In this Friday, Jan. 11, 2013 file citizen journalism image provided by Edlib News Network, ENN, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows rebels from al-Qaida affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra waving their brigade flag as they step on the top of a Syrian air force helicopter, at Taftanaz air base that was captured by the rebels, in Idlib province, northern Syria.

And in Syria, a stronger Jabhat al-Nusra would only further complicate the battlefield where Western powers have been covertly trying to funnel weapons, training and aid toward more secular rebel groups and army defectors.

Washington has designated Jabhat al-Nusra a terrorist organization over its links with al-Qaida, and the Syrian group's now public ties with the terrorist network are unlikely to prompt a shift in international support for the broader Syrian opposition.

Earlier this year, the U.S. announced a $60 million non-lethal assistance package for Syria that includes meals and medical supplies for the armed opposition. It was greeted unenthusiastically by some rebel leaders, who said it does far too little.

Washington's next step is expected to be a broader package of non-lethal assistance, expanding from food and medical supplies to body armor and night-vision goggles. However, President Barack Obama has not given final approval on any new package and an announcement is not imminent, a senior administration official said.

Secretary of State John Kerry, who met with Syrian opposition leaders in London on Wednesday, hinted at the new non-lethal aid package this week, saying the administration had been holding intense talks on how to boost assistance to the rebels.

The U.S. opposes directly arming Syrian opposition fighters, in part out of fear that the weapons could fall into the hands of Islamic extremists such as Jabhat al-Nusra.

Gay attack victim in France becomes cause celebre

PARIS (AP)—The shocking photo of a homophobic attack victim in Paris that went viral on social media this week and caused the French interior minister to weigh in was used as an emblem in a pro-gay rally Wednesday evening.

The image of Wilfred de Bruijn's cut and bruised face was brandished by gay groups during a demonstration of several thousand people as evidence of their claim that homophobic acts have tripled nationwide over opposition to a law legalizing gay marriage.

This week, the French senate will conclude its debate on a law legalizing same-sex marriage and adoption, which is expected to pass. It's been a rocky run since it was unveiled last November by President Francois Hollande's Socialists and split the majority-Catholic country.

But whichever way the Senate votes, the image of De Bruijn's battered face has made for a symbolic end to five months of bitterly divisive protests.

De Bruijn was beaten unconscious near his home early Sunday in central Paris, sustaining five fractures in his head and face, abrasions and a lost tooth. His boyfriend, who was also beaten up, said he witnessed three to four men shouting "Hey, look they're gays," before they attacked. The incident has shocked France, and garnered support far and wide as a gay "cause celebre." On Tuesday night, Interior Minister Manuel Valls called De Bruijn personally to express his shock.

"I certainly feel there's been an increase in homophobia," De Bruijn told The Associated Press at his apartment in Paris' working class 19th district, where the attack took place.

"What (the anti-gay marriage campaign) are saying is that they're not homophobic: lesbians and gays are nice people, but don't let them get close to children—that's very dangerous. It's OK for them to live together, but not like other couples with the same protection because it's not really the same thing," De Bruijn said.

"These people are all professionals of the spoken word. They know very well what can happen if you repeat, repeat, repeat that these people are lower human beings. Of course it will have a result."

IVF pioneer Robert Edwards dead at age 87

LONDON (AP)—Robert Edwards, a Nobel laureate from Britain whose pioneering in vitro fertilization research led to the first test tube baby and has since brought millions of people into the world, died Wednesday at age 87.

The University of Cambridge, where he was a professor, said Edwards passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home just outside Cambridge.

Together with Dr. Patrick Steptoe, Edwards developed in vitro fertilization, or IVF, which resulted in the birth in 1978 of the world's first test tube baby, Louise Brown. At the time, the two were accused of playing God and interfering with nature.

Since then, the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology estimates that about 5 million babies have been born using the technique, which creates embryos in the laboratory before transferring them into a woman.

Edwards' "success in IVF was one of the 20th century's great medical feats, pursued at long odds and despite great opprobrium," International Federation of Fertility Societies President Joe Leigh Simpson said.

"He laid the groundwork for infertile couples worldwide to have children, with 1-4 per cent of all babies in Europe, North America and Australia now born by assisted reproductive technologies started by Professor Edwards. He will be greatly missed."

AP

The British pioneer of IVF treatment, Professor Robert Edwards sits with two of his 'test-tube-babies', Sophie and Jack Emery who celebrate their second birthday in London in this file photo dated Monday July 20, 1998.

Experts say about 350,000 babies are born by IVF every year, mostly to people with infertility problems, single people and gay and lesbian couples.

"(Edwards) was an extraordinary scientist," said Dr. Peter Braude, emeritus professor of obstetrics and gynecology at King's College London, who was at Cambridge when Edwards and Steptoe were developing IVF.

"There was such hysteria around the kind of work he was doing," Braude said, noting that Edwards stopped his research for two years after he published details on how he had created embryos in the laboratory. "He wanted to work out what the right thing to do was, whether he should continue or whether he was out on a limb."

Braude said Edwards collected donor eggs from women in Oldham, where Steptoe worked. Edwards then put the eggs into test tubes which he strapped to his legs to keep them warm before catching the train to Cambridge, where he would attempt to fertilize them in the laboratory.

After Brown was born, Braude recalled a celebration at Cambridge, where scientists toasted Edwards and Steptoe's achievement by drinking champagne out of plastic cups.

WORLD BRIEFS

Yemen president orders military shakeup

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Yemen's president removed his predecessor's son and nephews from powerful security posts on Wednesday in the most dramatic step yet in sidelining old regime figures, according to the nation's state-run media. Former President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who stepped down in early 2012 after more than a year of protests against his rule, placed relatives and loyalists in top military and government posts over his 33-year rule. They have been accused of obstructing the U.S.-backed government as it tries to reform and fight an active al-Qaida branch in the impoverished Arab nation.

Giant John Paul II statue readied for unveiling

CZESTOCHOWA, Poland (AP)—Workers are putting the finishing touches on a new statue of the late Pope John Paul II that its backer is calling the tallest one of the pontiff in the world. The 13.8-meter (45.3-foot) white fiberglass figure will tower over the southern Polish city of Czestochowa, home to the predominantly Catholic country's most important pilgrimage site, the Jasna Gora monastery. Funded by a private investor and put up on his land, the statue of the Polish-born pontiff shows him smiling and stretching his arms to the world. On Tuesday, workers were joining the pieces together and painting them before the official unveiling of the statue Saturday, to be attended by church and city authorities.

Liberal Jews see a victory in proposed prayer area

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli authorities have proposed establishing a new section at the Western Wall where men and women can pray together, a groundbreaking initiative that would mark a significant victory by liberal streams of Judaism in their long quest for recognition. The proposal is aimed at ending turmoil surrounding the Orthodox establishment's monopoly over the site, highlighted by the arrests of female worshippers who prayed while performing religious rituals the Orthodox say are reserved for men. "One Western Wall for one Jewish people," said Natan Sharansky, chairman of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency and mastermind of the proposal. He expressed hope that the site "will once again be a symbol of unity among the Jewish people, and not one of discord and strife."

Off The Wall

Man slices his own arms with saws

WEST COVINA, Calif. (AP)—A man deliberately cut himself with saws in the aisles of a Home Depot store in suburban Los Angeles on Wednesday, creating a gruesome scene in front of several customers that left him severely injured, police said.

The man was in the store's tool section and went unnoticed until he began grabbing several small saws, including one meant to cut sheet rock, and started using them on his arms.

"He cut both arms with hand saws down to the bone," said West Covina police Cpl. Rudy Lopez.

Officers received several 911 calls and arrived to find the man lying unconscious in the aisle in a pool of blood.

An off-duty paramedic from the Pasadena Fire Department had been shopping nearby, and with help from police collected twine and rags from store shelves and put makeshift tourniquets on both arms, a move Lopez said probably saved the man's life.

The man was in surgery hours after the incident, said Lopez, who knew no more about his condition.

The man, who looked to be in his 40s, was carrying no identification, has been unable to answer questions, and was not heard saying anything in the store, so police do not know his name or why he cut himself, Lopez said.

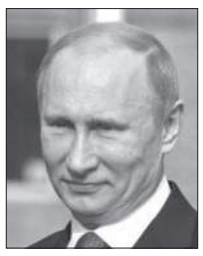
Police interviewed about five people who said they saw what happened, and Lopez said there were likely many more who quickly left the disturbing scene.

"It was pretty graphic," he said.

Putin on Finland's criminal blacklist by 'mistake'

HELSINKI (AP)—Vladimir Putin, banned in Finland?

Finnish police say the Russian president's name was mistakenly placed on a secret criminal register that could theoretically have gotten him arrested at the border.


Putin

TV station MTV3 reported Wednesday that Putin was placed there for his contact with Russian motorcycle gang Night Wolves, though he wasn't suspected of a crime in Finland. But National Police Board spokesman Robin Lardot told the AP the listing was a mistake and that Putin's name was removed from the list.

"The National Police Board has investigated the case and indeed found that such a mistaken entry was in the register," Lardot told The Associated Press. "We have ordered it to be removed and are investigating the case very thoroughly. We don't know how it got there." He declined further comment.

Putin's inclusion would be a major source of embarrassment in bilateral relations.

Finnish Interior Minister Paivi Rasanen, whose ministry oversees the police, conveyed her "sincerest apologies" to Putin over the mistaken entry.

"The Interior Ministry considers it of grave concern if a member of the police has made such groundless entries into the database of suspects."

MTV3 said the content of the register is known only to a few top officials. But in a statement later Wednesday, police called it a "computerized personal data file intended for nationwide used by the police."

They said it includes information on people who are suspected of offenses punishable by prison "or having contributed to an offence subject to imprisonment of more than six months, or to an unlawful use of narcotics."

The Night Wolves says on its Web site that the club's prototype was born in the 1980s from the desire to protect musicians who were holding illegal concerts during the Soviet era.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Montana pet owner to feds: The dog ate my money

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—A Montana man whose 12-year-old golden retriever ate five $100 bills hopes to be reimbursed by the federal government. Wayne Klinkel tells the Independent Record that his dog Sundance ate the bills while he and his wife were on a road trip to visit their daughter. Klinkel says he carefully picked through the dog's droppings, and his daughter recovered more when snow melted. He says he washed the remnants of the bills and taped them together and sent them to the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing with an explanation of what happened. The bureau's website says an "experienced mutilated currency examiner" will determine if at least 51 percent of a bill is present and eligible for reimbursement. The process can take up to two years.

Wrong turn leads Germans from home town to Austria

VIENNA (AP)—Instead of a five-minute trip home, a wrong turn led to an all-night drive for a pair of Germans that ended when police stopped their car in far-away Austria for heading the wrong way on a six-lane bridge. A police statement says the couple ended up more than 250 kilometers (150 miles) away from their Bavarian hometown. They were stopped early Tuesday after their car grazed three other vehicles while on the wrong side of a busy bridge in Linz, Austria's third-largest city. The two told police they apparently took a wrong turn after attending a funeral Monday evening and couldn't find their way back. Wednesday's statement says the driver's son picked up the unnamed Germans—his 77-year old father and his aunt, 70—and drove them home.

3 arrested after Wyoming police follow footprints

RIVERTON, Wyo. (AP)—Three men have been accused of stealing items that include a samurai sword—but according to central Wyoming police the suspects weren't exactly ninjas. Authorities in Riverton say they tracked the men down by simply following a series of footprints in the snow leading away from a home where the robbery was reported. Police Capt. Eric Murphy tells The Riverton Ranger that the tracks led investigators from the victim's house straight to another house where authorities found three men in their 20s "digging through" stolen property that included several other types of swords. Police say they also found marijuana and drug paraphernalia in the home late Monday night.

Circus elephant shot in drive-by shot in Miss.

TUPELO, Miss. (AP)—A circus veterinarian says the Asian elephant wounded in a drive-by shooting in Mississippi should be fully recovered within a few weeks. Meanwhile, a reward for information leading to an arrest has climbed to $21,000. Dr. Dennis Schmitt, a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus veterinarian, says the 39-year-old Asian elephant named Carol will be taken home to Springfield, Mo., to recuperate. Schmitt says the bullet hit Carol in the neck just above the shoulder, but it missed any major blood vessels or nerves. Schmitt says the elephant has been alert and active since the injury. Police Chief Tony Carleton says a vehicle drove past Tupelo BancorpSouth Arena about 2 a.m. and fired into the area. Police are investigating.

Science & Technology

Bitcoin currency goes mainstream

LONDON (AP)—With $600 stuffed in one pocket and a smartphone tucked in the other, Patricio Fink recently struck the kind of deal that's feeding the rise of a new kind of money—a virtual currency whose oscillations have pulled geeks and speculators alike through stomach-churning highs and lows.

The Argentine software developer was dealing in bitcoins—getting an injection of the cybercurrency in exchange for a wad of real greenbacks he handed to a pair of Australian tourists in a Buenos Aires Starbucks. The visitors wanted spending money at black market rates without the risk of getting roughed up in one of the Argentine capital's black market exchanges. Fink wanted to pad his electronic wallet.

In the safety of the coffee shop, the tourists transferred Fink their bitcoins through an app on their smartphone and walked away with the cash.

"It's something that is new," said Fink, 24, who described the deal to The Associated Press over Skype. "And it's working."

It's transactions like these—up to 70,000 of them each day over the past month—that have propelled bitcoins from the world of Internet oddities to the cusp of mainstream use, a remarkable breakthrough for a currency which made its online debut only four years ago. When they first began pinging across the Internet, bitcoins could buy you almost nothing. Now, there's almost nothing bitcoins can't buy. From hard drugs to hard currency, songs to survival gear, cars to consumer goods, retailers are rushing to welcome the virtual currency whose unofficial symbol is a dollar-like, double-barred B.

AP
In this April 3, 2013 photo, Mike Caldwell, a 35-year-old software engineer, holds a 25 Bitcoin token at his shop in Sandy, Utah.

Making files play nice with Media Player

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: When I try to open some email attachments that I want to run on Windows Media Player, I get an error message: "Windows Media cannot play the file. The player might not support the file type or might not support the codec that was used to compress the file." What does this mean? What's a codec? How do I fix this problem?—Bill Inman, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

ANSWER: You're getting an error message because there are certain types of files that Windows Media Player doesn't support. Not surprisingly, these include some common Apple file formats, such as the video format ".mov," that were intended to play on Apple's QuickTime program.

One solution is to install the free QuickTime for Windows program from Apple. You can find it at on Apple's website, at http://tinyurl.com/8vts. When you receive a file in an e-mail, click it. It should automatically run on either QuickTime or Windows Media Player.

Alternatively you could install a new codec, which stands for coder-decoder software. Codecs can make QuickTime files run on the Windows Media Player program, or Windows Media Player files run on the QuickTime program.

CNet, a reviewer of software, recommends the free Windows Essentials Media Codec Pack for Windows Media Player, which is designed to play nearly all types of movie and music files available on the Internet. It can be downloaded on CNet's website at http://tinyurl.com/bnn553h. Microsoft offers a free codec to make Windows Media Player files work on QuickTime for Apple Macintosh computers; find it on their site at hhttp://tinyurl.com/bobhenj.

It's also possible to convert some file types to others, such as changing a Windows Media song file to one that will work in Apple's iTunes. Apple offers an explanation online at http://tinyurl.com/ckx3ttq. But it's better to avoid file conversions because the file quality can be hurt in the process.

■■■

Q: I was affected by the issue you wrote about in last week's column, Microsoft's conversion of its Hotmail.com Web email service to Outlook.com. When I compared Outlook.com on the Web to the Microsoft Office Outlook 2007 program on our computers at work, I found the layout and options of Outlook 2007 were far superior. If I install the Outlook 2007 program on my own PC, can I route my new Outlook.com email to it instead of viewing Outlook.com online?—Brian Ziegler, Elk River, Minn.

A: Yes, you can configure your online Outlook.com account to work through your PC's Outlook program as long as you use the 2003, 2007 or 2010 versions of the Outlook PC software. But first you have to install a free piece of software from Microsoft called the "Outlook Hotmail Connector." (Yes, the name is outdated since Hotmail technically no longer exists.) Once you install the software, you must make some manual changes to Outlook.com, such as server settings. For details, see Microsoft's help article on the subject at http://tinyurl.com/bnnp8vu.

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Joeten Superstore in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000

POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI

$6.00	Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$6.00	All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.75	All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$6.00	Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$6.00	Military with Valid I.D.
$2.50	Additional for 3D Shows

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com

dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS

Friday, Apr. 12th through Thu Apr. 18th, 2013

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ NOW SHOWING ★

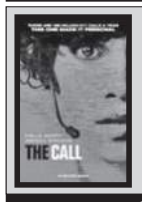
Scary Movie 5

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Charlie Sheen, Lindsay Lohan, Ashley Tisdale
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

The happily-married parents of a newborn boy seek the assistance of paranormal investigators in riding their home of evil in this installment of the popular spoof series produced and written by David Zucker (Airplane!, The Naked Gun), and directed by Malcolm D. Lee} (Undercover Brother). Ballet dancer Jody (Ashley Tisdale) and ape researcher Dan have just become the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy when the spooky happenings in their home start causing problems in the workplace as well. With a mischievous demon making their lives unbearable, the miserable couple plants cameras in every corner of their house, and recruit some supernatural experts to help evict the diabolical imp.



The Call

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Halle Berry, Evie Thompson, Abigail Breslin
Genre: Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

When a veteran 911 operator takes a life-altering call from a teenage girl who has just been abducted, she realizes that she must confront a killer from her past in order to save the girl's life.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Jurassic Park 3D

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Evil Dead

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Lou Taylor Pucci, Jessica Lucas, Liz Blackmore
Genre: Horror • Rated R

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D

Friday			7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25		7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25		7:25	
Monday thru Thursday			7:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D

Friday	4:25
Saturday	4:25
Sunday	4:25
Monday thru Thursday	4:25

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

The Croods 3D

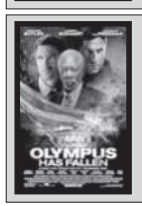
Friday		7:15
Saturday	1:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	7:15
Monday thru Thursday		7:15

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG

The Croods 2D

Friday	4:15	9:30
Saturday	4:15	9:30
Sunday	4:15	
Monday thru Tuesday	4:15	

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG



Olympus Has Fallen

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Life & Style

Joan Baez returns to the past in Vietnam

In this April 6, 2013 photo, Joan Baez laughs while speaking to former staff at the Metropole Hanoi in Hanoi, Vietnam. AP

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—At 72, Joan Baez is not short of events to anticipate: She has her mother's 100th birthday party, a tour of Australia and a new passion—painting—to explore. But the folk singer and social activist has spent a few days reliving her past, returning to Hanoi for the first time since December 1972, when American B-52s were raining bombs on it.

Each night, Baez would scurry to the bunker underneath her government-run hotel, her peace mission to North Vietnam interrupted by the reality of war. With the blast waves making her night dress billow, she would tremble until dawn, sometimes singing, sometimes praying.

"That was my first experience in dealing with my own mortality, which I thought was a terrible cosmic arrangement," Baez said last week in an interview in the same hotel in the Vietnamese capital, taking a break from a painting-in-progress on an easel beside her. "It is OK for everyone else to die, but surely there was another plan for me?" she joked. The U.S. launched its heaviest bombing raids since World War II against targets in Communist North Vietnam, which was fighting to overthrow the U.S.-backed government of South Vietnam. The bombardment, which mostly targeted Hanoi, lasted 11 days over Christmas in 1972.

Baez traveled to Vietnam then with three other Americans to see firsthand the effects of the war and deliver mail to U.S. prisoners being held in Hanoi. Many at home were angry at her trip because they believed it gave support to America's enemy. After the war, Baez spoke out against human rights abuses by the victorious Communist government.

Baez stayed this time in the same hotel where she and the rest of the peace delegation were put up 40 years ago by the North Vietnamese government, which was happy to welcome those willing to listen to its side of the story. The building is now more luxurious, and goes under a different name, The Metropole Hanoi, but much of it remains the same.

She was quick to visit the recently unearthed bunker that sits just beyond one of the hotel bars. Soon after descending, she put her hand to the cement wall, closed her eyes and sang out the African-American spiritual, "Oh Freedom," a song she often sang during civil rights rallies in the United States in the 1960s.

"I felt this huge warmth," she said of her feelings. "It was gratitude. I thought I would feel all these wretched things about a bunker but it was love that it took care of me."

On her return from Vietnam in 1973, she released an experimental album, "Where Are You Now, My Son?" The record features taped, spoken-word recordings taken from the bunker and the hotel and the sounds of Hanoi, including air-raid sirens and dropping bombs. Over a piano accompaniment, Baez sings of her time in Hanoi, including the Christmas celebrations in the hotel lobby and morning trips to see the devastation left by the American bombs.

Baez's time trip to Vietnam is just one part of a life that blazes through the cultural and political history of the United States.

She began her musical career in the folk clubs of Cambridge, where in 1961 she met Bob Dylan, who at that time was little known while she was a rising folk star. They had a high-profile romantic and musical relationship for a few years. Known mostly for singing other people's songs, she has recorded more than 50 albums, mostly recently a 2008 record that was produced by Steve Earle.

Baez has always placed her social activism ahead of her musical career, a commitment in part fostered by parents' conversion to Quakerism when she was a child. A pacifist, she was a leading voice in the civil rights movement and the anti-Vietnam War protest. She has supported scores of campaigns across the United States dealing with poverty, racism, environmental degradation and the wars in Iraq, as well as oversea causes.

MTV cancels 'BUCKWILD' after W. Virginia star's death

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)—MTV said Wednesday it is canceling its West Virginia-based reality TV show "BUCKWILD" a week after the accidental death of 21-year-old star Shain Gandee.

Network spokesman Jake Urbanski confirmed the news, saying it was "not an easy decision."

"But given Shain's tragic passing and essential presence on the show, we felt it was not appropriate to continue without him," the network said. "Instead, we are working on a meaningful way to pay tribute to his memory on our air and privately."

On Sunday, MTV will air a special, "BUCKWILD: WV to the NYC," which was shot before second-season filming had begun. The network said Shain's parents, Dale and Loretta Gandee, support the move.

Gandee and two others were found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning on April 1. Gandee's SUV was stuck in a mud pit near his home in Sissonville, its tail pipe submerged. That could have allowed the invisible gas to fill the vehicle's cabin.

Gandee, his 48-year-old uncle, David Gandee, and 27-year-old friend Donald Robert Myers had last been seen leaving a bar at 3 a.m. March 31. Friends and family searched all day for them, and authorities issued a missing-persons report the following day.

Affleck reflects on Oscar speech

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ben Affleck took home the best picture Oscar at this year's Academy Awards for his Iran hostage drama "Argo." But what everyone really remembers is that emotional, slightly uncomfortable acceptance speech. Everyone, apparently, except Affleck.

"I barely remember the Oscar speech," the actor-director said when asked about it at Tuesday's premiere of his latest film. "Certainly, the most important thing for me, in a way, was to honor my wife and to let people know how much I love her."

Affleck

During his speech Affleck choked up while thanking his wife, Jennifer Garner, for working on their "marriage for 10 Christmases."

"I think you can tell what people care about really by their actions—by what they invest in, by what they work on," he explained. "It's hard to tell somebody that you care about them when you're never around them and you don't see them and talk to them. So that was what I was trying to get across. Although I don't know how articulate I was."

Affleck was joined by co-stars Olga Kurylenko and Rachel McAdams for the Los Angeles premiere of Terrence Malick's romantic rumination "To the Wonder," which opens Friday.

Affleck, 40, admitted that seeing the celebrated director in action was indeed a wonder to behold.

"I think that you know he's a director who does really unusual stuff, really interesting stuff, and somebody who works outside the typical Hollywood norm. And that's interesting to other directors, certainly to me, because you go like `wow, what would happen of you experiment with this?'"

The film stars Affleck as an American whose relationship with a woman he met overseas turns cold, leaving him drifting back toward a childhood love.

"To the Wonder" was the last review written by celebrated film critic Roger Ebert, who died Tuesday, and it sent "shivers" down Affleck's spine.

Model Vodianova's jet-setting ways help others

NEW YORK (AP)—Model Natalia Vodianova was honored as an inspiration to women at the annual DVF Awards, in part because as a globe-trotting jet-setter, she hasn't forgotten her roots in Russia.

Actually, it's her around-the-world lifestyle, rubbing shoulders with fashion's glitterati, that allows her to help back home, the 31-year-old model said.

Vodianova founded the Naked Heart Foundation in 2004. The charity started as a project to build a playground for the surviving children of the Beslan school massacre. It has now grown to 90 play parks in 68 Russian towns.

"I conduct most of my fundraising in the fashion industry. It's very international, and we have a lot of events outside of Russia, and even those in Moscow or St. Petersburg bring international celebrities and performers," she said. "I activate all my resources."

The DVF Award was presented to Vodianova last week at the United Nations by designer Diane von Furstenberg as part of The Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation that honors leadership and courage.

Vodianova said it was particularly special because it was the first time she's been celebrated outside of Russia for her charity work. Plus, von Furstenberg is more than a business acquaintance.

"It's so hard to put into words our relationship so it doesn't sound cheesy. I love her. She's my role model, my confidante, someone I share vacations with. We are friends, and I consider her a part of my family," Vodianova said.

AP

This April 5, 2013 photo released by The DVF Awards shows model Natalia Vodianova with her DVF Award in New York.

The designer returned the compliment, telling The Associated Press in an email: "Natalia is a beautiful, strong and determined young woman. I was first drawn to her beauty and then I discovered her enormous heart when she came to me in 2004 wanting to help the children who had suffered from the Beslan tragedy. I saw that she was a woman who could make things happen."

Vodianova's now a veteran of the runway, having walked in more than 175 fashion shows, from Calvin Klein to Yves Saint Laurent, but she said a von Furstenberg show was the first one she ever opened and closed.

"My English at the time was really poor, but she made me feel really good about myself" she said. "She made it very personal. It was more than I fit her `look.' Diane said she liked my personality."

Vodianova makes Paris her home with her three children. She went to modeling school in Paris and lived there in her teens after being "discovered." She has also lived in London and New York.

Travel is part of the modeling gig, and even though she doesn't like being away from home so often, she's thankful to have work and to be successful at it, she said. Vodianova has been the face of many ad campaigns, including Stella McCartney, Givenchy and David Yurman.

She is very active on social media and is "always available on my Blackberry."

"I very much continue my day job that pays my bills, and it gives me the constant exposure that I need to be good for Naked Heart. It's tough when I have to go film a commercial for a week in India—that's a week away from my family—it's what I like to do, love to do and have to do."

The key is not to think too much about it or look too far ahead on the calendar, she said. "Stopping makes for more jet lag. Keep moving, and I do keep moving generally in life with just little stops to say hello to myself."

Flavor Flav felony case headed for trial in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Entertainer Flavor Flav is facing a trial on felony charges that he threatened his longtime girlfriend's 17-year-old son with a butcher knife during a family argument.

The 54-year-old former rap and reality TV star, whose legal name is William Jonathan Drayton Jr., didn't testify during a Wednesday evidence hearing in Las Vegas Justice Court.

Flav

But the teen did. He pointed from the witness stand toward Drayton at the defendant's table, identified him as the man wearing a clock around his neck, and told Justice of the Peace Melanie Andress-Tobiasson that Drayton chased him to a bedroom and stabbed the knife through the door during the argument early Oct. 17.

The teen quoted the obscenity he says Drayton used as the rapper threatened to kill him. Drayton was standing 2 feet away with the knife still in his hand, the boy said.

Auction includes Parker's Carrie Bradshaw shoes

NEW YORK (AP)—Sarah Jessica Parker is auctioning three pairs of shoes from her Carrie Bradshaw days to raise money for a New York high school.

Her "Sex and the City" shoes from Prada, Jonathan Kelsey and Dolce Vita will be sold alongside Elvis Presley's brown leather boots, Shaquille O'Neal basketball shoes—size 22—and pink platforms that Britney Spears wore on tour.

The auction benefits LaGuardia High School of Music, Art and the Performing Arts, according to statement Wednesday from Gotta Have Rock and Roll, a memorabilia company.

It will also feature Madonna's leopard-print boots, Sylvester Stallone's fur ones and Eminem's white sneakers.

The sale starts on Apr. 24.

Parker

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Jury pool for Jackson death civil case grows to 81

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Attorneys and a Los Angeles judge have selected 81 people to remain in the jury pool for a case between Michael Jackson's mother and concert giant AEG Live. Nine people were added to the pool Wednesday after the sixth day of jury selection. Screenings will continue Thursday and Friday to try to find enough people to serve in Katherine Jackson's case against the promoter of her son's planned series of comeback concerts. The Jackson family matriarch claims AEG executives failed to investigate the doctor who was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in Jackson's death. The company denies all wrongdoing. Potential jurors are being given a 24-page questionnaire assessing their knowledge of the case.

NBC renews Carson Daly's show for 13th season

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBC is keeping Carson Daly's show in its late-night lineup. The network announced Wednesday that it's renewing "Last Call with Carson Daly" for the show's 13th season. NBC lauded Daly for creating what the network called "a unique late-night format." His program airs at 1:35 a.m. Eastern time. Daly says he's proud of "Last Call" and grateful to continue with it. He also hosts the NBC singing contest "The Voice." NBC previously announced plans to shake up the "Tonight Show," replacing Jay Leno with Jimmy Fallon next year. The network hasn't said who will take Fallon's place as host of "Late Night."

Lawyer: Bond for Gucci Mane set at $75,000

ATLANTA (AP)—A lawyer for Gucci Mane says a judge has set a $75,000 bond for the rapper, who is accused of hitting a fan in the head with a champagne bottle at an Atlanta nightclub. Attorney Drew Findling said Wednesday that his client, whose real name is Radric Davis, plans to post bond in Fulton County. He will then be transferred to DeKalb County, where Findling says Davis has a hold placed on him because of his probation for an unrelated misdemeanor charge. Davis was originally denied bond at a hearing last month. A fan says Davis hit him in a club's V.I.P. area on March 16 while he tried to take a picture with Gucci Mane. The fan, James Lettley, said he needed 10 stitches.

Prisoner regretting his past has trouble seeing the future

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 50-year-old man who is serving time for robbery in West Virginia. Every day I wake up acting as if I am in control and don't have a care in the world. The truth is, I'm scared, lonely and feel totally helpless. All my life I have lived on the dark side of the street, taking for granted the values in life and the love so many people tried to give me.

Two failed marriages and several relationships with good women are over because of my determination to follow an unhealthy dream, not to mention all the friends I have lost as well.

Now as I look around me, there's no one there. No one to love and no one to love me. I never knew until now that chasing that dream would cost me everyone I ever loved.

I know I have made bad choices in life. I deserve the time for the crime I committed. But am I also sentenced to a world of loneliness? Can I ever be loved again and be happy after all the wrong I have done? Is there someone out there who would be willing to give me a chance? Is it too late to start over?

Abby, you have so many answers for so many people, I am just hoping you have an answer for me.

SERVING TIME

DEAR SERVING TIME: It is never too late to start over. With penitence comes redemption. If you are willing to journey down a different path, the relationships you form along the way will be rewarding, long-lasting and mutual. Because of your criminal record you may have to work harder to gain trust, but I promise you that if you're willing to work at it, it can be done.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband, the father of our two children, was retired from the Air Force. He passed away 18 years ago. He had a full military funeral, with draped flag and all. His wife at the time was presented with the flag, which was proper. They had no children.

When she passes on, would it be proper for her family to give the flag to his biological children? After all, they were with him—as was I—throughout his entire 22-year military career. When my daughter mentioned it to his wife, she got angry.

C. IN TEXAS

DEAR C.: Your former husband's wife was entitled to whatever property was left after his demise. The flag is hers to bestow—or not. I don't know how your daughter's request was phrased, but the woman may have been offended by the way the question was asked. I can't think of any other reason she would become angry.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am writing regarding a letter you printed Jan. 26 from "Wants to Be Polite." I appreciate the person's sentiments because I, too, want to use good manners and a "You're welcome" or "Have a nice day" is a pleasing reply to hear.

What I do NOT like is a "No problem" reply to a "Thank you." It does not seem like a sincere response to me. In fact, it sounds like I was expected to be a problem and just happened not to be one. Any thoughts on this?

ARKANSAS LADY

DEAR ARKANSAS LADY: You may not like hearing it, but you had better get used to it. While "You're welcome" may be more gracious, saying "No problem" reflects a generational shift in the vernacular. And while it may seem jarring, it is intended to be a polite response, so accept it graciously.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

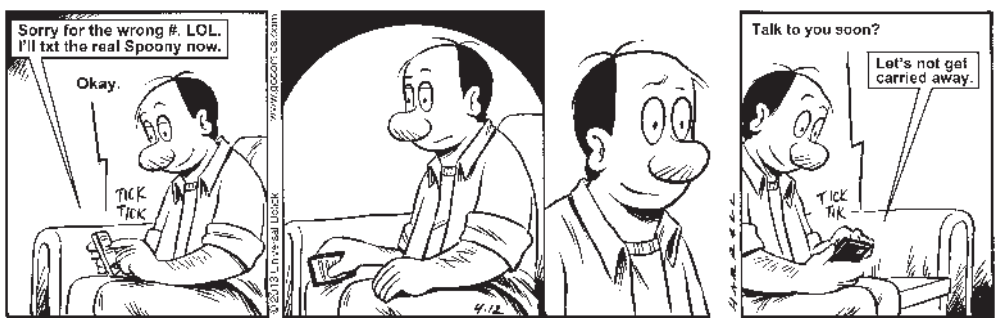
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

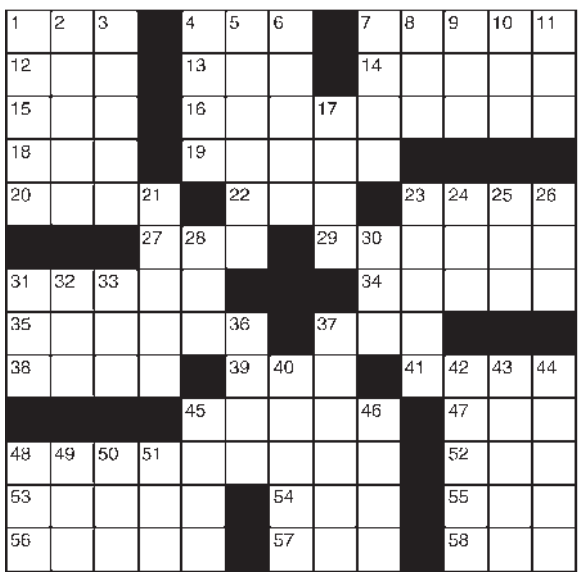
ACROSS
1 Salary
4 Homer's outcry
7 Duck
12 Position
13 Exist
14 Eye surgery device
15 Grecian vessel
16 Syrian capitalist?
18 Encountered
19 Step
20 Boast
22 Compass pt.
23 Distort
27 Paul Newman movie
29 Crooner Vic
31 Dope
34 Steer
35 Maiden
37 Needlefish
38 Bat a gnat
39 Praise in verse
41 Young horse
45 Good, in Guadalajara
47 To and —
48 Sinner's fate
52 Vat
53 Hunter in the sky
54 Prime meridian hrs.
55 Recede
56 Madrid mother
57 Ultra-modernist
58 Aye undoer

DOWN
1 Downright
2 Drying rack
3 Busybody
4 Root beer brand
5 Gave a talk
6 Macho type
7 Otherwise
8 Fond du —
9 Work with
10 Lair
11 Preceding
17 On in years
21 Specter
23 Blue cartoon character
24 Japanese pond carp
25 Conclude
26 Teensy
28 Multi-purpose truck
30 Khan title
31 Egos' counterparts
32 Margery of rhyme
33 "— Little Teapot"
36 Lummox
37 Human — Project
40 Condescend
42 Frequently
43 Caribbean resort island
44 Theater vestibule
45 Poison
46 Aware of
48 Comical DeLuise
49 Coach Parseghian
50 Central
51 Neither mate

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	R	K	■	M	O	O	S	■	S	L	A	Y
P	O	I	■	O	B	O	E	■	C	O	V	E
P	I	N	T	S	I	Z	E	■	A	G	O	G
■	■	G	U	T	■	E	R	E	L	O	N	G
C	A	S	T	L	E	■	S	A	P	■	■	■
L	I	I	■	Y	A	M	■	R	E	L	A	Y
O	R	Z	O	■	T	A	J	■	D	I	V	F
D	Y	E	R	S	■	Y	A	P	■	F	E	W
■	■	■	A	P	E	■	W	A	G	E	R	S
D	A	C	T	Y	L	S	■	W	A	S	■	■
U	G	L	I	■	D	O	W	N	S	I	Z	E
O	R	E	O	■	E	R	I	E	■	Z	E	D
S	A	W	N	■	R	E	N	D	■	E	N	S

Yesterday's answer 4-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Saoirse Ronan, 19; Claire Danes, 34; David Letterman, 66; Ed O'Neill, 67

Happy Birthday: Proceed with positive thoughts and actions. Put pressure on those putting demands on you and you will reverse any negativity you encounter. Be passionate about whatever you pursue and you will draw attention, respect and the support you need to finish what you start. Love is highlighted along with pleasure, entertainment and a balance between work and play. Your numbers are 8, 13, 24, 27, 33, 35, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll be impulsive disclosing how you feel. Once you head down that path, ride out the storm until you reach a place that permits you to reorganize and start over. Letting go of something that isn't working will liberate you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Refrain from sharing your secrets or giving in to peer pressure. Put your time and effort into learning something that will help you advance. Delays due to poor organization or last-minute changes can be expected. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Expand your interests but don't overpay to do so. If you research what you want to accomplish, you will find ways to cut corners and stay within your budget. A personal relationship will flourish if you are receptive and willing. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't confuse love with friendship. You have to be clear about what someone wants or expects from you before you make a promise. Do whatever it takes to resolve some uncertainty at home. Redistribution of chores and responsibilities will help. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let the little things get you down. Strive for personal perfection and being pleased with your accomplishments instead of trying to be or do what someone else wants. Love who you are; hone your skills and talents to serve your needs. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Spend time clearing up your personal papers and accounts. Letting someone else handle your affairs is questionable. Research alternatives that will help bring you more cash. Investing in you and your talents will pay off. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Relationships must be nurtured. Hear what others have to say before you make a judgment call that will leave you in a vulnerable position. It's best not to voice your opinion before having all the facts. Don't let love cloud your vision. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put more time into your home and use your imagination to utilize your space to better suit your needs. Don't worry about a last-minute change someone makes. As long as you don't fold under pressure, you will win in the end. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stick to the truth. As soon as you exaggerate or color your story, you will be criticized. Socializing with friends or doing something special with someone you love will lead to happiness and a positive attitude. Embrace a challenge. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Risks will not pay off. Stick close to home and engage in family fun or fixing up your place. Put comfort and relaxation at the top of your list. Being responsible is fine, but you also have to know when to take a break. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Rethink your strategy. You can pick up valuable information if you attend a class or seminar that helps you advance. A change in the friends you hang out with or the interests you engage in will bring about positive results. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Avoid anyone putting pressure on you or asking for cash. You must be intent on following through with plans that will help you expand your interests and services. Charity begins at home. Take care of your needs first. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a doer, aggressive, bright, capable and determined to succeed.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

								2
	3		1		8		7	
2		9				6		
		4		1				
7				4				6
				9		3		
		6				9		8
	9		7		2		5	
3								

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	1	7	3	6	2	5	8
2	7	3	9	8	5	1	4	6
5	6	8	4	2	1	3	9	7
8	3	6	1	7	9	5	2	4
9	1	4	2	5	8	6	7	3
7	5	2	3	6	4	9	8	1
3	8	5	6	4	2	7	1	9
6	2	9	8	1	7	4	3	5
1	4	7	5	9	3	8	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/11

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WHAT'S FOR DESSERT? Solution: 9 letters

R	E	D	N	E	L	B	A	T	C	E	L	E	D	I
P	G	S	S	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	E	Y
P	E	N	E	L	F	F	U	O	Ⓢ	Ⓞ	Ⓤ	Ⓡ	L	M
U	T	A	I	I	I	C	E	N	T	C	T	L	I	A
D	A	B	R	H	P	C	L	E	R	S	E	E	C	D
D	R	A	O	O	S	I	E	Z	A	J	G	G	I	E
I	E	K	L	N	M	E	D	O	T	D	N	E	O	M
N	G	E	A	E	R	N	R	R	U	I	T	G	U	A
G	I	L	C	Y	A	E	A	F	C	R	O	S	S	E
G	R	B	E	L	C	C	R	I	E	U	H	E	A	T
E	F	I	B	I	H	U	T	F	R	R	K	Y	Y	S
C	E	D	P	E	I	N	A	M	P	A	S	T	R	Y
I	R	E	E	T	E	W	E	M	C	S	V	S	A	R
P	S	S	W	E	E	T	A	L	L	I	N	A	V	U
S	E	I	R	R	E	B	S	U	G	A	R	T	B	P

© 2013 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 4/12

Bake, Bavarian, Berries, Bland, Blender, Cakes, Calories, Cheese, Chocolate, Delectable, Delicious, Diet, Edible, Egg, Enticing, Frozen, Fruit, Fudge, Gourmet, Honey, Jelly, Lime, Made, Mush, Pastry, Pear, Pies, Pudding, Recipes, Refreshing, Refrigerate, Roast, Slice, Souffle, Sour, Spice, Steamed, Sugar, Sweet, Syrup, Tarts, Tasty, Vanilla, Vary, Wafer

Yesterday's Answer: Necktie

The NEW Treasury 14 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $11.95 ea., plus $3.00 postage and handling for 1st Prize and any $14.95 ea. Gift items by Catalog Creations, add $2.00 additional postage and handling per item, each additional volume. Universal Uclick, Attn: Promotional, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-943-5460. Order online at puzzles.com. Do not send cash. Copyright © Universal Uclick 2012

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Royal Thai Massage is looking for 3 Masseuses w/ 1 yr. exp. Green card or US Citizen preferred. Call 234-2521.

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): $5.55/hr. At least 3 years' experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Chef/Restaurant Manager (Korean and Western cuisine): $5.55-8.20/hr. At least 5 years' experience in Korean and Western cuisine with license in both required. High school diploma or equivalent required. Email resume to star@hanmisaipan.com.

Alexander Inc. is looking for an Accountant. Must have at least 5 years of experience. Knowledge in QuickBooks & MS Excel is an advantage. Call 234-5117.

1-Data Encoder/Office Clerk. Salary $5.55p/h. 2-3 yrs exp. Email resume to LP Accounting at loidapark@yahoo.com.

WANT TO BUY

We wish to buy mileage — United/Star Alliance. Please call 234-6533.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash!. Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600sq. ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

American K&W Corporation
PMB 978 BOX 10001 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Waitresses
Salary $5.55 p/h. Minimum 2 years experience. Knowledge in Japanese & Chinese language a plus.
Interested applicants may call Yang Xia at 233-9468

CHINESE GOODS INC.
Job Vacancy Announcement
Closing Date: April 19, 2013
(4) COOK
- Minimum of 2 years experience
- Knowledge in Chinese Cuisine
- Flexible work hours/schedule

Please email resume to PO Box 502351, Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(1) GENERAL MANAGER
(1) SUPERVISOR / CASHIER
If interested, send resume and copy of police clearance to
HANOM INVESTMENT SAIPAN, INC.
PMB 400 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: 233-5100

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
MALE & FEMALE CAREGIVER (Stay-in)
- Minimum of 2 years experience
- Flexible time and days

Please call 322-1947

LSG Sky Chefs
LSG has an opening for the following:
- Admin Assistant
- Cook
- Cook Helper

Interested individuals may pick up an application in the guard station at the front gate.

We are located at Tun Herman pan Road and situated between the American Red Cross and the Historic Prevention Office.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

LCD & Plasma TV Repair
Samsung, Philips, Vizio
Call for more information
Calvatron 233-5641
Open: Monday-Saturday • 9:00AM-7:00PM

HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT
4 Bedroom, 2 Storey Bldg with 2 bathroom & 1 small office space. Located in Papago
Please call Ellen Delos Santos at 285-2847
Serious Callers Only

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE
ACCOUNTANT
Submit resume to:
International Insurance Agency
or call Tel. Nos. 235-5555 • 235-8888

Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Cooks
- Must have previous experience of at least 2-4 years.
- Salary $5.55 per hour.
- Must be willing to work from 3:00 in the morning.
- Must be willing to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

Please submit your resume at Tun Goru Snack Bar
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that MS. STACY RAMANGMOU is no longer employed with iConnect effective April 2, 2013.

The Management

OKADA CORPORATION:

OPERATIONS MANAGER/HEAD CHEF (1): Be able to handle business operations as well as kitchen duties to ensure the business efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the business to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must be passionate about food and have broad knowledge in Japanese cuisine centering on Sushi, Soba, Tempura as well as other cultural dishes and different food preparations. Have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 2-5 year experience. For more information and inquires please come to our office at:

Okada Corporation dba: Okadaya
1F Joeten Commercial Building
Susupe, Saipan

Please no phone calls.
Must apply in person.

Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS
Saipan Tribune
Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Are you ready to Ace it?
Opinion
Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
SUDOKU
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January

WHATZIT Solution: Bag of bones

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

CLAVICLE
SCAPULA
PELVIS
CRANIUM
TARSAL
HUMERUS

WHATZIT © 2013 www.whatzit.com Distributed by Universal Uclick

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Bryant has 47 in Lakers' win over Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—It didn't matter that it was the Rose Garden. The "M-V-P!" chant for Kobe Bryant was loud and clear.

Bryant scored a season-high 47 points and carried the Los Angeles Lakers closer to a playoff berth with a 113-106 victory over the short-handed but tenacious Portland Trail Blazers on Wednesday night.

The Lakers moved a full game up on the Utah Jazz for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

"We've got no breathing room at all," Bryant said. "I'm still on edge. We've got to win three more games and we're in."

Portland, missing the playoffs for the second straight season, has lost nine straight, the most since an 11-game skid in the 2005-06 season. Rookie Damian Lillard led the Blazers with a career-high 38 points.

Pau Gasol had 23 points, seven rebounds and nine assists, while Dwight Howard added 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers. Bryant was 18 of 18 from the free throw line and played the entire game, determined to pull out a win after trailing early.

"What he (Bryant) is doing is phenomenal. He's determined to get us in the playoffs," Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni said. "That's what happens when you open your mouth and guarantee that we'll get in the playoffs."

Bryant vowed in late February that his team would make it to the postseason. The Lakers wrap up the regular season at home with games against playoff-bound Golden State, San Antonio and Houston.

Gasol knotted the game at 96 with a layup and a jumper with 7:09 left. After Lillard's 15-footer, Gasol added another jumper to tie it again. His layup gave the Lakers a 102-100 edge before Bryant hit a pair of free throws and added a 23-foot jump shot with 4:09 left to make it 106-100.

Howard's alley-oop dunk from Gasol with 53 seconds left made it 110-104 and all but sealed it.

For much of the game, it seemed like Bryant the veteran against Lillard the upstart rookie.

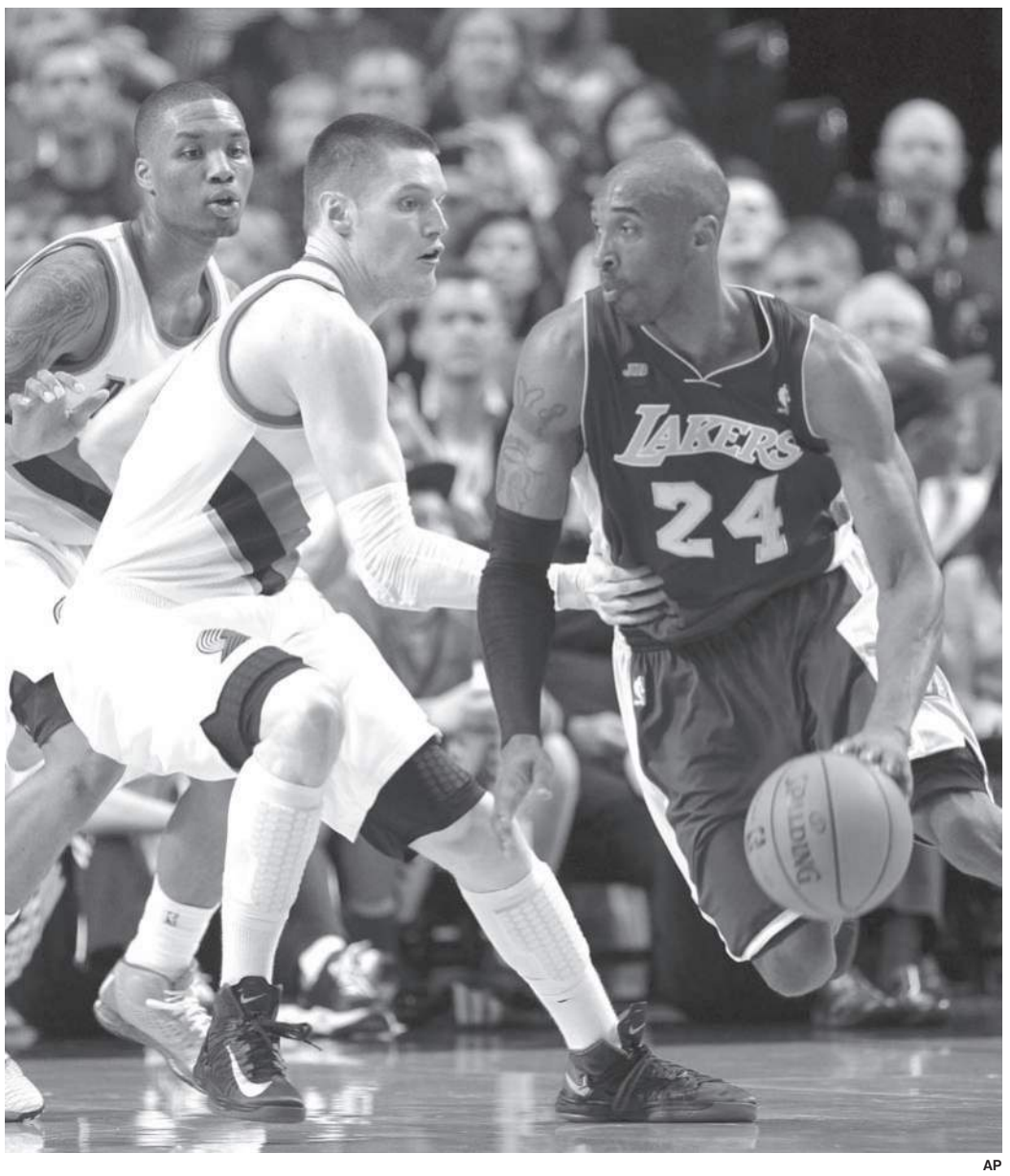
"He's spectacular ... really fantastic," Bryant said of the Blazers' five-time rookie of the month. "A lot of players get hot, but he's got the moves, patience, intelligence, the balance on his jumpers. He's the real deal."

Lillard has grown up admiring Bryant.

"I got to guard him and he got to guard me," Lillard said. "I enjoyed the challenge. ``

The deck was stacked from the start against the Blazers, who started four rookies for the first time in the team's history.

Portland was without starters Wesley Matthews (ankle), J.J. Hickson (back) and Nicolas Batum (right shoulder). As a result, two-time All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge was the only veteran starting with rookie forward Victor Claver, guards Lillard and Will Barton, and center Meyers Leonard.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, right, drives on Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, left, and forward Luke Babbitt during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

Matthews injured his right ankle in Portland's 96-91 loss to Dallas on Sunday, while Batum was missing his fourth straight game with a sore shoulder. Hickson says he's been dealing with a painful lower back for the past several games.

But the rookies got off to an astonishingly fast start, going up 17-8 on Lillard's fadeaway jumper. Lillard banked in a 3-pointer to extend the lead to 22-12 and the Blazers made eight of their first nine shots from the field.

He hit another 3 to make it 35-25 and the Blazers went on to lead 41-33 at the end of the first, their most points in the opening quarter this season.

The Lakers chipped away at the lead and Bryant's long jumper on the baseline closed Los Angeles to 50-48.

The Blazers led 69-61 at the break, but the Lakers opened the second half with a 10-0 run capped by Howard's hook shot to pull ahead 71-69, their first lead of the game. Howard's layup extended the lead to 78-71.

The Blazers were hurt when Claver rolled his ankle late in the third quarter and retreated to the locker room, but they stayed on the Lakers' heels, coming within 86-85 on Eric Maynor's running jumper and pulling in front on Luke Babbitt's 3 pointer.

Maynor's fadeaway put Portland up 95-90.

"It was a very good effort by our team, but unfortunately we couldn't pull it out," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "A couple of plays down the stretch could have gone either way, a couple of shots could have gone either way. For the most part, I thought it was a well-played game against a team that's pretty hungry to make the playoffs."

Heat 103, Wizards 98

In Washington, Ray Allen scored 23 points, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade chilled at the end of the bench, and Miami's B-squad gave the resting A-team the gift of home-court advantage throughout the playoffs, clinching the best record in the NBA.

With James (right hamstring) and Wade (sprained ankle and bruised knee) looking like two guys sitting at a bus stop, and Chris Bosh at home with flu-like symptoms, plus Udonis Haslem getting the night off because of a sore right ankle, the what-was-left-over of the Heat committed 25 turnovers but still managed the win that assured they'll finish better than the Western Conference-leading San Antonio Spurs.

The Heat, who have won four straight, also set a franchise record for victories with 62, moving one ahead of the 1996-97 team. They also improved to 14-1 on the second night of back-to-backs.

A.J. Price tied a career high with 23 points and John Wall had 17 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds for the Wizards, who had won nine straight at home.

Nuggets 96, Spurs 86

In Denver, Wilson Chandler scored 29 points and Corey Brewer had 28 as Denver overcame a slow start to post its franchise-record 21st straight home win.

The Nuggets (54-24) also tied their franchise record for victories in an NBA season, with four games remaining, including two at home, where they improved to a league-best 36-3.

Andre Iguodala recorded a triple-double with 12 points, 10 assists and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets, who haven't lost at home since Jan. 18 against Washington.

They broke the old mark of 20 straight home wins set by Doug Moe's 1984-85 team.

Nets 101, Celtics 93

In Boston, Deron Williams had 29 points and 12 assists to lead Brooklyn over Boston.

Brook Lopez scored 21 points and Joe Johnson added 20 for Brooklyn, which won for the 12 time in 18 games overall and beat the Celtics for the third time in four meetings this season.

The Nets moved closer to wrapping up fourth place in the Eastern Conference and clinching home-court advantage in the first round. Brooklyn owns a 3 1/2-game edge over idle Chicago with four games left to play in the regular season.

Paul Pierce led Boston with 23 points, Jeff Green added 11 and Kevin Garnett had 11 points and eight rebounds in his second game back after missing the previous eight with an inflamed left ankle.

Suns 102, Mavericks 91

In Dallas, P.J. Tucker scored 17 points, including two key baskets in the closing minutes, and Phoenix helped eliminate Dallas from postseason contention for the first time since 2000.

The Suns blew a 14-point lead in the second quarter and almost did it again in the fourth before hanging on to snap a 10-game losing streak that was their longest in 16 years.

The loss, coupled with the Lakers' victory at Portland later Wednesday, meant a 12-season streak of playoff trips for the Mavericks (38-40) officially ended.

Goran Dragic led the Suns with 21 points and 13 assists, while Luis Scola had 11 points and a season-high 15 rebounds.

Shawn Marion led the Mavericks with 22 points and nine rebounds. Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points and Vince Carter had 18.

Clippers 111, Timberwolves 95

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin and Chris Paul led seven players in double figures with 19 points apiece, and Los Angeles beat Minnesota for its franchise-record 31st home win of the season.

Paul added 11 assists, and Willie Green had 15 points in breaking the old mark of 30 wins by the 1974-75 team, when it was known as the Buffalo Braves. The Clippers improved to 31-9 at home, three days after clinching their first Pacific Division title in franchise history.

Nikola Pekovic scored 20 points and Derrick Williams had 13 points and 10 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who got swept 4-0 by the Clippers for the first time since 1992-93.

Hawks 124, 76ers 101

In Philadelphia, Josh Smith had 28 points and 12 rebounds, John Jenkins added 21 points and Atlanta blitzed Philadelphia.

Mike Scott contributed 17, Al Horford had 16 and Jeff Teague 13 for the Hawks, who snapped a three-game losing streak and improved to 43-36.

The Hawks pulled into a tie with the Chicago Bulls for fifth place in the Eastern Conference playoff chase. The Hawks recently clinched their sixth straight playoff berth but were coming off losses to the Sixers, New York Knicks and San Antonio.

Thaddeus Young led the reeling Sixers with 28 points, while Nick Young had 19 off the bench.

Magic 113, Bucks 103, OT

In Orlando, Florida, Nik Vucevic had a career-high 30 points and 20 rebounds, Tobias Harris added 30 points and 19 rebounds, and Orlando rallied for an overtime victory over Milwaukee.

The Magic overcame a five-point deficit in the final minute of regulation, sending it to OT on a 3-pointer by Harris with 1.9 seconds left. Vucevic and Harris combined for nine points in the extra period to help Orlando snap a five-game losing streak.

Monta Ellis led the Bucks with 21 points, and John Henson and Mike Dunleavy each added 17. Henson also had 25 rebounds for Milwaukee, which lost its 14th straight game in Orlando.

Pistons 111, Cavaliers 104

In Cleveland, Andre Drummond scored a career-high 29 points and Detroit won a second straight game for the first time in two months.

Greg Monroe's basket with 38.8 seconds remaining gave Detroit a 105-103 lead and the Pistons, who hadn't won consecutive games since Feb. 8-9, swept the four-game season series from the Cavaliers. Detroit has beaten Cleveland six straight times.

Drummond also grabbed 11 rebounds, while Monroe scored 23 points and Rodney Stuckey added 18.

Kyrie Irving scored 27 points, including 21 in the second half, but missed a 3-pointer that would have given the Cavaliers the lead with 21 seconds left. The All-Star guard was playing on the second night of back-to-back games for the first time since returning from a shoulder injury.

Kings 121, Hornets 110

In Sacramento, California, John Salmons had 22 points, and Jason Thompson and Marcus Thornton each added 20 to help Sacramento snap a four-game losing streak.

The Kings led by 17 at the half and surpassed the 100-point mark early in the fourth quarter when they stretched the lead to 28 points against the struggling Hornets.

The victory halted a season-high five-game home losing streak for the Kings, who have a 20-20 record at Sleep Train Arena. The Kings haven't had a .500 or better home record since the 2007-08 season, when they went 26-15.

Isaiah Thomas had 15 points and DeMarcus Cousins 11 for the Kings.

Eric Gordon scored 23 points for the Hornets.

Machado's 3-run HR lifts Orioles over Red Sox

BOSTON (AP)—Manny Machado's three-run homer capped a five-run ninth inning and gave the Baltimore Orioles an 8-5 win over the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday night.

The Red Sox had gone ahead 5-3 in the sixth on consecutive homers by Daniel Nava and Jarrod Saltalamacchia. But closer Joel Hanrahan couldn't hold the lead on a night when their nearly 10-year home sellout streak ended after two seasons in which they missed the playoffs.

Chris Davis led off the ninth with his fifth homer. Hanrahan (0-1) retired the next two batters, then allowed a single by Ryan Flaherty. He then walked Nolan Reimold and Nate McLouth to load the bases and threw a wild pitch that brought pinch runner Alexi Casilla home with the tying run.

On the next pitch, Machado hit the ball over the Green Monster for his first homer.

Darren O'Day (1-0) got the win and Jim Johnson pitched the ninth for his third save.

Boston's sellout streak began on May 15, 2003, lasted 820 games, including the postseason, and was the longest in major pro sports history. It broke the record of 814 set by the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers from 1977-95.

Blue Jays 8, Tigers 6

In Detriot, J.P. Arencibia hit a three-run double in the seventh inning and Toronto rallied from a five-run deficit to beat Detroit.

Detroit led 6-1 in the sixth, but starter Rick Porcello allowed hits to the first three batters. They all eventually scored, and Toronto added four more runs the following inning. Brayan Villarreal (0-1) came on with one on and one out in the seventh and proceeded to walk three straight hitters, forcing in a run. Arendcibia followed with a drive to the gap in left-center off Octavio Dotel.

Rays 2, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Texas, Matt Moore and four Rays relievers combined on a five-hitter and Tampa Bay beat Texas in the coldest day game ever at Rangers Ballpark.

It was only 39 degrees when the game started after a rain delay of 1 hour, 29 minutes. That was 40 degrees colder than Tuesday night.

Evan Longoria had a sacrifice fly for the Rays, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Their other run came on a grounder after Derek Holland (0-1) walked the bases loaded, his only three walks in his eight innings.

Royals 3, Twins 0

In Kansas City, Missouri, Wade Davis pitched out of bases loaded jams in the first two innings, Billy Butler and Jeff Francoeur homered and Kansas City the Minnesota to sweep the three-game set.

Butler homered in the first, while Francoeur led off the seventh with a home run to extend his hitting streak to seven games. The Royals got another run in the seventh when Alcides Escobar's single scored Chris Getz. Salvador Perez had three of the nine Kansas City hits.

Athletics 11, Angels 5

In Anaheim, California, Brandon Moss tied a career high with five RBIs, including his second homer in two games, and Oakland extended its winning streak to seven games with a victory over Los Angeles.

Moss finished with four hits. His other five-RBI game was on Sept. 29 against Seattle, when he hit a game-ending, three-run homer in the 10th inning to give Oakland a 7-4 victory. It came during a season-ending six-game winning streak that propelled the A's to their first AL West title since 2006.

Astros 8, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Rick Ankiel and Chris Carter each hit a two-run homer to help Houston beat Seattle before the smallest crowd in Safeco Field history.

Carlos Pena had three hits and scored twice for the Astros, who also got two RBIs from J.D. Martinez and a late home run by Marwin Gonzalez. Brad Peacock (1-1) earned first major league win since 2011 with Washington.

Cardinals 10, Reds

In St. Louis, Jake Westbrook pitched a five-hitter as the St. Louis Cardinals backed him with four home runs in routing the Cincinnati Reds.

Jon Jay, Carlos Beltran and Matt Adams homered in a span of seven at-bats off Homer Bailey as the Cardinals took two of three from the NL Central champions.

Matt Carpenter added a two-run homer on a four-hit day. Adams homered for the second straight game and added an RBI double and a walk.

Braves 8, Marlins 0

In Miami, Evan Gattis hit a three-run homer and Atlanta completed its second consecutive three-game sweep when it beat the reeling Miami Marlins.

Mike Minor (2-0) pitched 5 2-3 innings for the Braves, whose 8-1 record leads the majors. They're off to their best start since 1994, when they began the season 13-1.

The Marlins have the worst record in the big leagues at 1-8. They've scored just 16 runs, and with five consecutive losses they're off to their worst start since the 1998 team began the season 1-11.

Giants 10, Rockies 0

In San Francisco, Buster Posey drove in three runs while NBA star Kevin Durant cheered him from the stands, Barry Zito pitched another gem and San Francisco completed a three-game sweep of Colorado.

Staked to a quick lead, Zito (2-0) won his 11th straight decision, dating to last year's postseason. San Francisco earned its 16th consecutive victory in games he has started, the longest such run by a Giants pitcher since 16 in a row by Carl Hubbell for New York in 1936, STATS said.

Diamondbacks 10, Pirates 2

In Phoenix, A.J. Pollock homered twice, doubled and drove in four runs as Arizona salvaged the finale of its three-game series against Pittsburgh.

Pollock began the day in an 0-for-14 rut. He also made a diving catch in center field to rob Andrew McCutchen in the first inning.

Wade Miley (2-0) allowed two runs on five hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Phillies 7, Mets 3

In Philadelphia, Domonic Brown and Chase Utley homered in a five-run first, Kyle Kendrick threw six effective innings and Philadelphia beat New York.

Pinch-hitter Laynce Nix also went deep for the Phillies, who took two straight from the Mets to earn their first series win of the year.

John Buck homered for the third straight game and Lucas Duda had two solo shots for New York. The Mets set a club record by hitting at least one homer in their first nine games.

Dodgers 4, Padres 3

In San Diego, Carl Crawford led off with an opposite-field homer and A.J. Ellis added a two-run shot to back Chad Billingsley's strong season debut and lead Los Angeles over San Diego.

Billingsley (1-0) opened the season on the disabled list after bruising his right index finger during a bunting drill on March 15. He held San Diego to one run and five hits in six innings.

Crawford homered to left field on the second pitch from Eric Stults (1-1). He tripled off the left-field wall in the fifth and scored on Mark Ellis' single through a drawn-in infield to make it 4-1.

Nationals 5, White Sox 2

In Washington, Bryce Harper homered, Ian Desmond had three extra-base hits and Washington beat Chicago to stay unbeaten at home.

In a game that began 16 minutes late because, the Nationals explained, the umpires got stuck in traffic, Washington starter Jordan Zimmermann (2-0) limited the White Sox to two runs and seven hits in seven innings. Both runs scored on groundouts.

Drew Storen pitched the eighth and Rafael Soriano earned his fourth save in five chances.

HANMI Charity Golf set for June 1

» Event open to off-island and junior golfers

One of the most highly anticipated annual golf tournaments in the Northern Mariana Islands is set to tee-off on June 1, 2013, as the 12th Annual HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament prepares to offer golfers the chance to win enticing prizes while supporting a good cause.

This year's tournament will be held at Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course and will be open to the first 144 paid registrants. Cash and numerous in-kind prizes await the winners, and proceeds of the tournament will be contributed to community charities.

A local golfer tees off during a previous HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"We encourage all golfers to mark their calendars for the 12th HANMI Charity Golf Classic Tournament," said tournament chair Juko Ishikawa. "This year, we are also welcoming off-island golfers and junior golfers to participate, so we encourage everyone to register early to reserve their spot."

Registration forms are available on the HANMI website at www.saipanhotels.org, and at Mariana Country Club, Coral Ocean Point Resort, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and Hyatt Regency Saipan. Early bird tournament fee is $105 for payments received by 5pm, May 29. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. The fee increases to $125 after the early bird deadline. For an additional $25, players may also compete for nearest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive. The tournament will start at 7am.

The tournament features seven categories: Championship Flight, A Flight, B Flight, C Flight, Seniors (55 years-and-over), Ladies, and Juniors. Players in the Championship Flight must have 0-6 handicaps, while those in A Flight are 7- 11 handicappers. The B Flight is for players with 12-17 handicap, while C Flight are for players with handicap 18 and up. Senior category is for ages 55 and up.

A junior category has been included this year for ages 8 to 16 yeas old. The registration fee for junior competitors is $70 and the last day to register for the junior category is May 16, 2013. A maximum of 24 junior golfers will be registered.

First place winners of all flights will receive $300, a trophy, and a hotel stay at one of the HANMI member hotels. Second place finishers will receive $200, a trophy, and gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel, and third place winners will receive $100, a trophy, and gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel. Junior category winners will receive gift certificate at one of the HANMI member hotel. Winners for the female and junior golfers will be determined using the Double Peoria handicap system.

HANMI's most recent community project has been the allocation of $20,000 to the newly completed Mt. Tapochau Development Project. HANMI has supported NMI Crimestoppers, Marianas Tourism Education Council, the Department of Public Safety bike patrol program, PAWS, the Chinatown skatepark, Saipan Marathon, and other community causes. ***(PR)***

MISTER

From Page 28

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: The more I practice the better I get.

*"Blake Mister has become much more focused this year, improving his game tremendously. He not only plays for Paire, but has committed himself to also practicing with the CNMI elite team. He is a strong runner and has started looking around the field knowing both when it is best to pass or take the shot. Recently, he has also had the opportunity to play up with the U12 and even a very young player on the field he held his own."—**Blake's coaches Tyce Mister and Joe Weaver***

JOYCE

From Page 28

friends join the Docomo/Paire team.

*"Paulynn is nominated for her outstanding performance and effort as a new U10 player. Paulynn has a solid kick. She is enthusiastic and energetic at both practices and games."—**Paulynn's coaches Tyce Mister and Joe Weaver***

YANKEES

From Page 28

scored off a fielder's choice.

Lizama had another RBI in the third inning when he brought Byron Kaipat to the home plate with his single, while the latter was also credited with an RBI for scoring leadoff batter Brian Camacho. Bansil nailed the third run in that inning off another fielder's choice.

Two more runs in the fifth inning, courtesy of Jonathan Tenorio's RBI triple and Greg Iskawa's RBI single, stretched the Yankees' lead to 7-0, before the Angels finally broke into the scoreboard at the bottom. John Reyes singled and scored Jesus Iguel to give the Angels their first run.

However, Reyes' RBI single was not enough to spark an Angels' rally, as the Yankees answered with five runs in the last three innings against only one from their foes. Iguel reached home plate anew for the Angels' second run off a Yankees error at the bottom of the eighth. The Yankees got three earned runs and the two others off the Angels' throwing and pitching errors.

Benavente had a complete game for the Yankees, pitching eight innings and giving up only two runs and one hit with no errors. He walked three and struck out two. Lizama went 3-for-4 at the plate for the league-leaders, making three RBIs and scoring two runs.

Brewers 18, D-9ers 5

In last Monday's game, the Tan Holdings Brewers stayed in hot pursuit of the Yankees after whipping the winless D-9ers (0-9).

Tom Camacho started out for the Brewers, giving up no runs and allowing only two hits in the first three innings to set up the easy win for his team.

While the D-9ers struggled on offense against Camacho and company in the first three innings, the Brewers' bats were busy hitting their target. McGary Scaliem hit a two-RBI single, while Nokki Saralu, Manny Sablan, and Mike Iguel had RBI singles, and Brewers got one more run off the D-9ers errors for a promising 6-0 lead after one complete inning. The advantage ballooned to twin digits at the bottom of the second, 10-0, as the Brewers added four more runs off Ton Guerrero's two-RBI single, Cliffton Silil's RBI single, and a D-9ers miscue.

The Brewers never looked back from thereon although relief pitcher Vince Cepeda gave up four runs in the fourth inning. Cepeda made up for his early struggle, as he allowed only two hits in the next two innings, struck out two, and gave up no runs before returning to the bench and leaving Iguel to close out the match in the seventh inning.

Saralu went 3-for-4 for the Brewers, made four runs and recorded three RBIs and one double. Guerrero also had three RBIs on a 2-for-3 performance at the plate, while Scaliem and Sablan added two RBIs apiece with the latter drilling four runs, too.

This season's SML follows a three-round robin format in the regular season with the Top 4 teams advancing to the playoffs. The IT&E Fielders complete the field and are at the middle of the team standings with their 5-3 slate.

15 FIGHTS

From Page 28

president and promoter Cuki Alvarez said.

For starters, the host's Ko Palacios will challenge Alexander "Sherkman" Allen of Guam's Team Ultimate in a K-1 match at 165 lbs. Next up will be the 175-lb bout between Kevin "The Bull" Camacho of Guam Muay Thai and Team Pwang's Pete "Project K" Keju. The third K-1 fight of the night will be a Guam vs. Tinian affair at a catch weight of 151 lbs with the former's Sonny Chargualaf taking on Renze "The Intense" Benghit. Another Tinian vs Guam pairing will end the K-1 action of the night with Spike 11 Guam's Ricky Camp facing Tinian Zeng Zung's Regino "The Kid" Mundo.

For the first MMA action in Mayhem, Team El Peligro's Sid Nepaial will collide against Trench Tech's SeongHo Chung in a 140-lb bout. Other MMA pairings are Leon Mendiola of Team Legit and Jared "Smiley Face" Santos of Countershot Guam at 115 lbs; independent fighter Matt Fisher vs Gary "Dissa" Ray of Team Tuf Nuff at 140 lbs; Kyle Toves of Lights Out vs. Craig "Earthquake" Borja of Zeng Zung at 145 lbs; independent fighter Franklin Santos vs. Vince Campo of Spike 22 at 115 lb; JoeRay Manglona of Tinian vs. Danny Cruz of Zalata at 150-155 lbs; INS' Eric "Superman" Villanueva vs. Danny "The Monkey" Santos of Trench Tech at 155 lb; and Ryan "The Predator" Toves of Lights Out Guam vs. Pete "The Beast" Cepeda of Beng Hung Tinian at 155 lbs.

For the two title bouts of the night, one will be a toss up between Guam and Saipan fighters with Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga dueling Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez of Countershot Guam for the welterweight belt. The other title match features Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique and Mariana Elite's Derick "El Peligro" Rangamar for the bantamweight championship.

The last fight of the night is a non-title bout, but it expected to go down to the wire with Guam and Saipan's prides at stake, as Martin "Ningbo Slice" Cepeda of Trench Tech takes on Guam Spike 22/Ground Fu's Mikey "The Flash" Taitano at 170 lbs.

ROP 14: Mayhem will start at 8pm and doors open at 7pm. Next week's event is supported by Miller Lite and Monster Energy Drink, Docomo Pacific, Budget Rent A Car, Century Hotel, 360 Restaurant, Salbahe Brand, Sea Horse, Inc. Get Fit CNMI, CrankEffect.com, Fokai Industries, Master Construction, Mestisu Visuals, OGLC C Tattoo Studios, and HAGUNEXT.

LONG

From Page 28

Long De's roster is composed of goalkeepers Zhao Xin and Luo Xue Fei, Shawson Zhou, Wang Xu, Sheng Xiao, Zhang Yu Feng, Chen Jun Ping, Wu Yi, Zhu Lang, Gu Yuan Yan, Hu Zheng Fei, Huang Wen Bin, Shi Hai Dong, Cao Jie, Zhao Yu Cheng, Li Meng, Geng Zhe, Han Pin Xiong, Jin Hua, Zie Gang, Li Wen Bin, Wang Rui, and Zheng Zhi. Majority of the members of the visiting squad are in their late 20s and mid 30s and only four are in their early 40s.

"We learned that this visiting team won championships in a tournament in Nanjing last year and early this year. They play high-level football and are known for their quickness. It's a good exposure for our team to play against a top team like Long De. This is our first international friendly game and our strikers are really looking forward to this experience," Tan Holdings FC general secretary general Ariel Mariano said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

"Long De FC initially just planned to visit Saipan, but after finding out we have an active football league here the club also decided to play friendly matches and bring in more players. We are promoting sports tourism on Saipan through these exhibition matches," Mariano added.

The visiting squad will challenge the Johann Noetzel-led "Betde," which ruled Division 1 of the inaugural M-League last year. Noetzel is a former pro and now the goalkeeper for the CNMI National Men's Team. He will be teaming up with Jershwin Angeles, Ruselle and Raphael Zapanta, Jun Jie Cui, Kenneth Domingo, Michael Hall, Feng Chun Jin, Jae Hoon Jung, Sungsu Jung, Wai Wo Lee, Li Guang Lin, Byung Hwan Ong, Semisi Paongo, Chi Ming Tan, and Chris Guerrero.

The "Betde" and Long De match will be played at 9am tomorrow, while the visitors second match against players from Matansa FC, Kanoa FC, Sun Palace FC, and Shirley's FC is set for Sunday at 6pm.

"We ask everyone to see the games this weekend and support our local FCs," Mariano said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	51	26	.662	__
x-Brooklyn	46	32	.590	5 1/2
x-Boston	40	38	.513	11 1/2
Philadelphia	31	47	.397	20 1/2
Toronto	30	48	.385	21 1/2

Southeast Division

z-Miami	62	16	.795	__
x-Atlanta	43	36	.544	19 1/2
Washington	29	50	.367	33 1/2
Orlando	20	59	.253	42 1/2
Charlotte	18	60	.231	44

Central Division

y-Indiana	49	29	.628	__
x-Chicago	42	35	.545	6 1/2
x-Milwaukee	37	41	.474	12
Detroit	27	52	.342	22 1/2
Cleveland	24	54	.308	25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

y-San Antonio	57	21	.731	__
x-Memphis	53	25	.679	4
x-Houston	44	34	.564	13
Dallas	38	40	.487	19
New Orleans	27	52	.342	30 1/2

Northwest Division

x-Oklahoma City	57	21	.731	__
x-Denver	54	24	.692	3
Utah	41	38	.519	16 1/2
Portland	33	45	.423	24
Minnesota	29	49	.372	28

Pacific Division

y-L.A. Clippers	52	26	.667	__
x-Golden State	45	33	.577	7
L.A. Lakers	42	37	.532	10 1/2
Sacramento	28	50	.359	24
Phoenix	24	55	.304	28 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	5	3	.625	__
Baltimore	4	4	.500	1
Tampa Bay	4	5	.444	1 1/2
Toronto	3	5	.375	2

Central Division

Kansas City	6	3	.667	__
Chicago	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Detroit	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Minnesota	4	5	.444	2
Cleveland	3	5	.375	2 1/2

West Division

Oakland	7	2	.778	__
Texas	6	3	.667	1
Seattle	4	6	.400	3 1/2
Houston	3	6	.333	4
Los Angeles	2	6	.250	4 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	8	1	.889	__
Washington	6	2	.750	1 1/2
New York	5	4	.556	3
Philadelphia	4	5	.444	4
Miami	1	8	.111	7

Central Division

Cincinnati	5	4	.556	__
St. Louis	5	4	.556	__
Chicago	3	5	.375	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	3	6	.333	2
Milwaukee	2	6	.250	2 1/2

West Division

Arizona	6	3	.667	__
San Francisco	6	3	.667	__
Los Angeles	5	3	.625	1/2
Colorado	5	4	.556	1
San Diego	2	6	.250	3 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Week 1 of NMA/PSS All Schools Qualifiers

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

U10 runners compete in the 60m race during Week 1 of the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships held at the Oleai Sports Complex late last month.

Northern Marianas Athletics coach Elias Rangamar checks on the volunteers, while students line up for the long jump qualifiers.

A Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School student joins the high jump trial.

A Marianas High School runner is about to win the qualifying heat.

Students chat while waiting for their events.

A Hopwood Junior High School student prepares for the discus throw qualifier.

Elementary school students line up for the 100m run trials.

A Hopwood Junior High School student competes in the discus throw trial.

Female runners race in the 100m sprint.

Five junior high school runners engage in a tight race in the 100m run.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yankees keep lead, down Angels

Ben Jones Jr. seen here rearing back for a swing in a file photo, plays for the Northern Yankees who remained on top of the 2013 Saipan Major League after beating the Angels last Wednesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The defending champions Saipan Stevedore Company Northern Yankees retained the top spot in the 2013 Saipan Major League after dominating the St. Michael's Medical Response Angels, 12-2, last Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Yankees pitcher Ton Benavente had a no-hitter in the first four innings and a one-hitter in the entire match to power his team to the easy win. The Yankees improved to an 8-1 record, one win ahead of their closest pursuer, Tan Holdings Brewers (7-2). The Angels fell to a dismal 2-7 card.

Benavente's excellent performance at the plate in the first four innings was complemented by the good defense of his teammates, as the Yankees' outfielders caught five fly balls and the basemen booted out six. No more than four Angels sluggers went to bat in each of the first four innings and none of them moved past second base.

On offense, the Yankees recovered from a shutout in the top of the first, scoring two and three runs in the next two innings. A.J. Lizama singled in the second inning, drove Robert Bansil home, and later

See YANKEES on Page 26

NMIFA YOUTH PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Name: **Blake Mister**
Age Group: **U10**
Team: **Paire FC**
Position: **Center Right wing defender**
Years of Playing Experience: **4 years**
Village: **Papago**
School: **Whispering Palms**
Grade: **3rd**

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: I started playing it when I was little and kept on playing. My brothers play soccer too so we are always kicking the ball around the house.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: I like playing with my friends and enjoy the sport.

Q: What are your greatest football achievements/moments?

A: Scoring a goal by kicking into the upper corner of the goal.

See MISTER on Page 26

Name: **Paulynn Joyce**
Age Group: **U10**
Team: **Paire FC**
Position: **Center Striker**
Village: **Papago**
School: **Dandan Elementary School**
Grade: **3rd**

Q: How did you become interested in football?

A: I developed an interest in playing after enjoying kicking the ball at home with my brother and friends.

Q: Why do you like to play football?

A: I like it because it's fun and I get to exercise

Q: What are your greatest football achievements/moments?

A: When I scored a goal over the goalie's head.

Q: What other message can you share with the football community?

A: I would love to have my

See JOYCE on Page 26

15 fights set for ROP 14: Mayhem

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 14: Mayhem promises to deliver action-packed bouts as 15 fights are scheduled for the April 19 event at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Next month's fight card includes four kickboxing matches, nine MMA bouts, and two title duels.

"It will be another great night of fights," Trench Tech

See 15 FIGHTS on Page 26

◀ Guam Countershots' Sonny Chargualaf, left, seen here using his knee to hit his foe in a previous Trench Tech event, will take on Zeng Zung Tinian's Renz "The Intense" Benghit in a K-1 bout on April 19 at the Saipan World Resort.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Long De Football Club plays 'Betde'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players of Long De Football Club pose for a group photo after a practice in Nanjing, China.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

China's Long De Football Club arrives on Saipan today to play a series of exhibition games against Tan Holdings "Betde" FC and a selection of players from M-League's Division 2 teams this weekend at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Long De is a football club from Nanjing and has been competing in amateur men's tournaments in China since the group was formed in 2003 and has won several championships for the past few years. The visiting squad is bringing in 21 players and will be lead by Long De FC president Shawson Zhou and vice president Wang Xu.

See LONG on Page 26